ZIFF DAVIS MEDIA™ OCTOBER 2001

# YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE

WWW.YIL.COM

ONLINE MUSIC AWARDS ISSUE

# Free Music

YES, IT'S STILL OUT THERE

FIND OUT WHERE

# 100

MOST WIRED COLLEGES

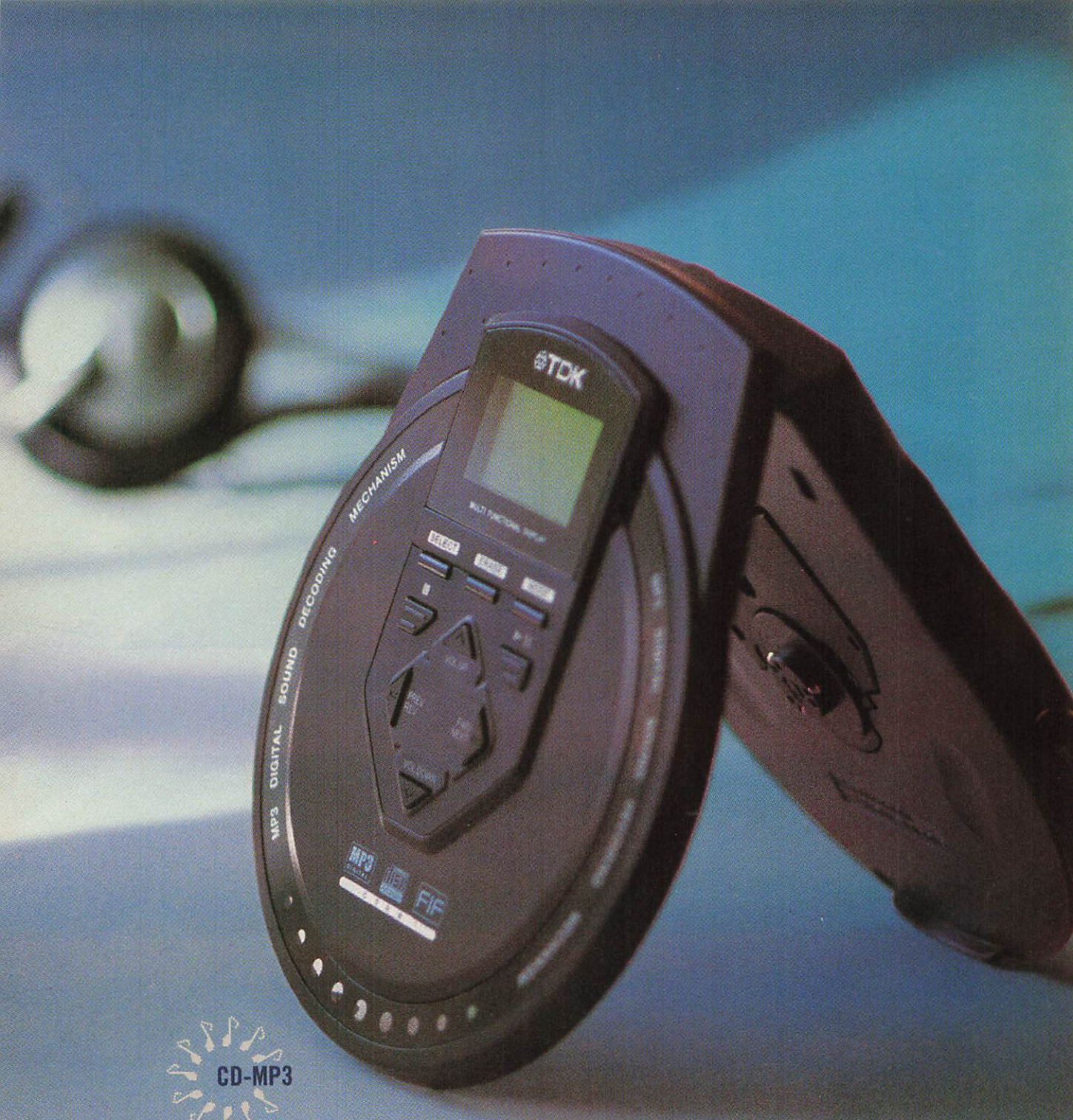
HOT WIRED CARS

BEST SITES TO RESEARCH ANYTHING

# Stream On

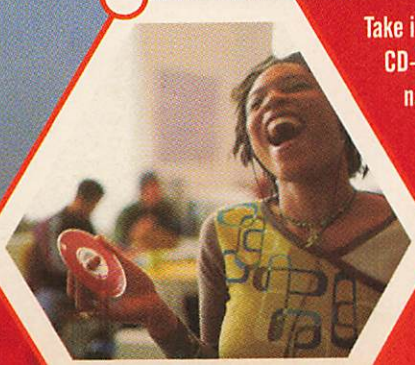
AEROSMITH AND THE UNSTOPPABLE MUSIC REVOLUTION

TDK®
mojo™




CD-MP3

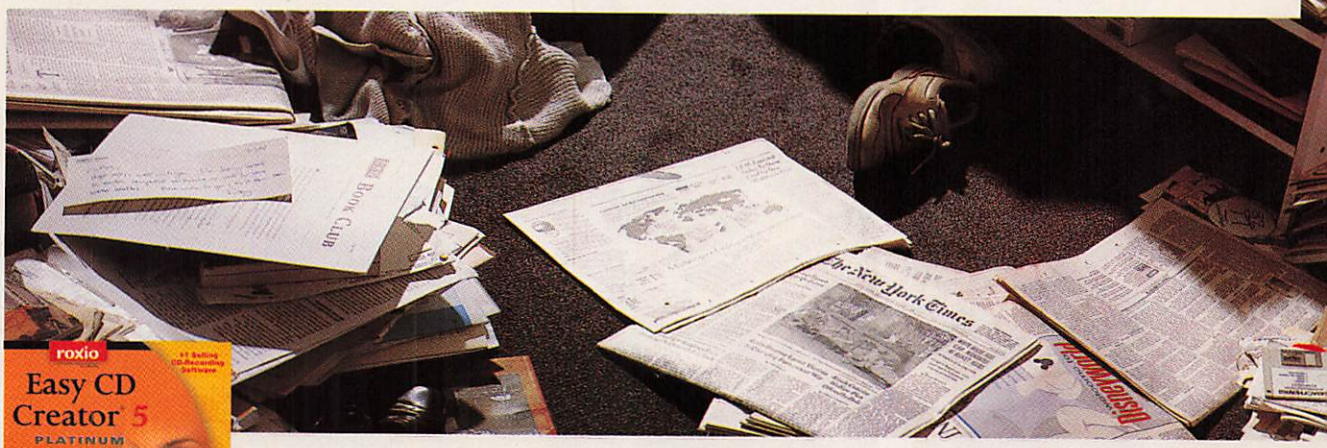
# POWERFULLY SIMPLE

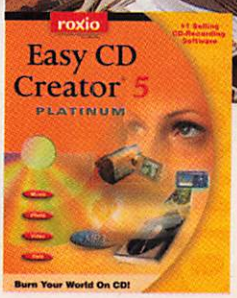


Take it to the streets with MOJO, the only portable CD-MP3 player with full artist, title, album and genre navigation plus on-the-fly playlist creation. Listen to over 10 hours of music from a single CD spinning in MOJO. The smooth Navitrack interface and huge 4-line LCD will make you wish everything could be so simple.

Touch the sweetspot of digital audio, www.tdk.com.

Need more space? Try a digital solution. Back up your data, burn all your video, MP3s and multimedia presentation files onto CD. Anyone can do it with Easy CD Creator® 5, by Roxio. The world's best selling CD burning software.
Check out roxio.com/EasyCD5. Mac addicts look for Toast® 5.

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# Your Travel Photos May Be Worth More Than You Think!

# ENTER

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Taking great travel pictures and sharing them over the Internet is easier than ever with the Minolta DiMAGE 7, the award-winning camera that sets new standards in the anytime, anywhere magic of digital photography. Only Minolta, the worldwide leader in imaging technologies, could have developed this innovative new camera. The revolutionary DiMAGE 7 combines the high quality performance of traditional photography with the immediacy and speed of digital technology. And all at a very affordable price.

**The Minolta DiMAGE 7**

To celebrate the launch of the exciting Minolta DiMAGE 7, you are invited to enter The Minolta Photo Travel Challenge and win one of three exciting trips. To enter, send us your favorite Family Travel, World Travel, or Adventure Travel photos. Three lucky winners—one for each category—will enjoy one of these incomparable vacations.

MINOLTA

**The essentials of imaging**

## Win One of Three Exciting Getaways

### FAMILY TRAVEL PRIZE

**1 Enjoy Family Fun at Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort & Spa, the Caribbean's #1 Ultra All-Inclusive Resort** Twelve miles of pristine sand beaches, luxurious accommodations, gourmet dining, land and water sports, nightly entertainment, and supervised children's activities for a family of four (two adults/two children) for five days/four nights at Beaches Turks & Caicos Resort & Spa, including roundtrip coach airfare.

Beaches By Sandals Resorts

### WORLD TRAVEL PRIZE

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Belgium

sabena

Relais Oud Huis Amsterdam Brugge

Hotel The Plaza Brussels

### ADVENTURE TRAVEL PRIZE

**3 Escape to Baja California with Mountain Travel•Sobek, The Adventure Company** "Kayaking Sea of Cortez Trip" is a seven-day adventure for two including four days of easy sea kayaking, four nights of camping, two nights in a hotel and roundtrip coach airfare. Spend sun-drenched days kayaking crystal clear waters, swimming and snorkeling with friendly sea lions and tropical fish, and hiking the canyons of sublimely beautiful Espiritu Santo Island.

MOUNTAIN TRAVEL SOBEK

**HERE'S HOW TO ENTER** Log on to www.ziffdavisinternet.com/minolta

**To Enter** Email or mail your favorite travel photo. Visit www.ziffdavisinternet.com/minolta for information on how to enter online. Or mail photos to: Minolta Photo Travel Challenge, c/o D. Miller, Ziff Davis Media, 28 East 28th Street, 14th floor, New York, NY 10016. Include your name, mailing address, phone number and email address. All photos should be clearly marked Family Travel, World Travel, or Adventure Travel.
**Judging** Photos will be judged by the editorial staff of Expedia Travels, Yahoo! Internet Life and representatives of Minolta. Winning photos will be selected based on content and quality.
**Official Rules and Regulations** No purchase necessary. See www.ziffdavisinternet.com/minolta for official rules and regulations, or send a self-addressed, stamped envelope marked RULES to Minolta Photo Travel Challenge, c/o D. Miller, Ziff Davis Media, 28 East 28th Street, 14th floor, New York, NY 10016.

Let's

compare

# apples to apples.

## With **5.2 megapixels** and superb **7x optical zoom**, the new Minolta DiMAGE 7 perfects digital photography.

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5.24 megapixels teamed with a 16-element apochromatic Minolta GT lens produce laser-sharp resolution. The colors, which you can adjust *before* you shoot (along with contrast and exposure), are as saturated and vital as reality. Which leads us to modestly suggest: If you want to compare the DiMAGE 7 to something, try real life.

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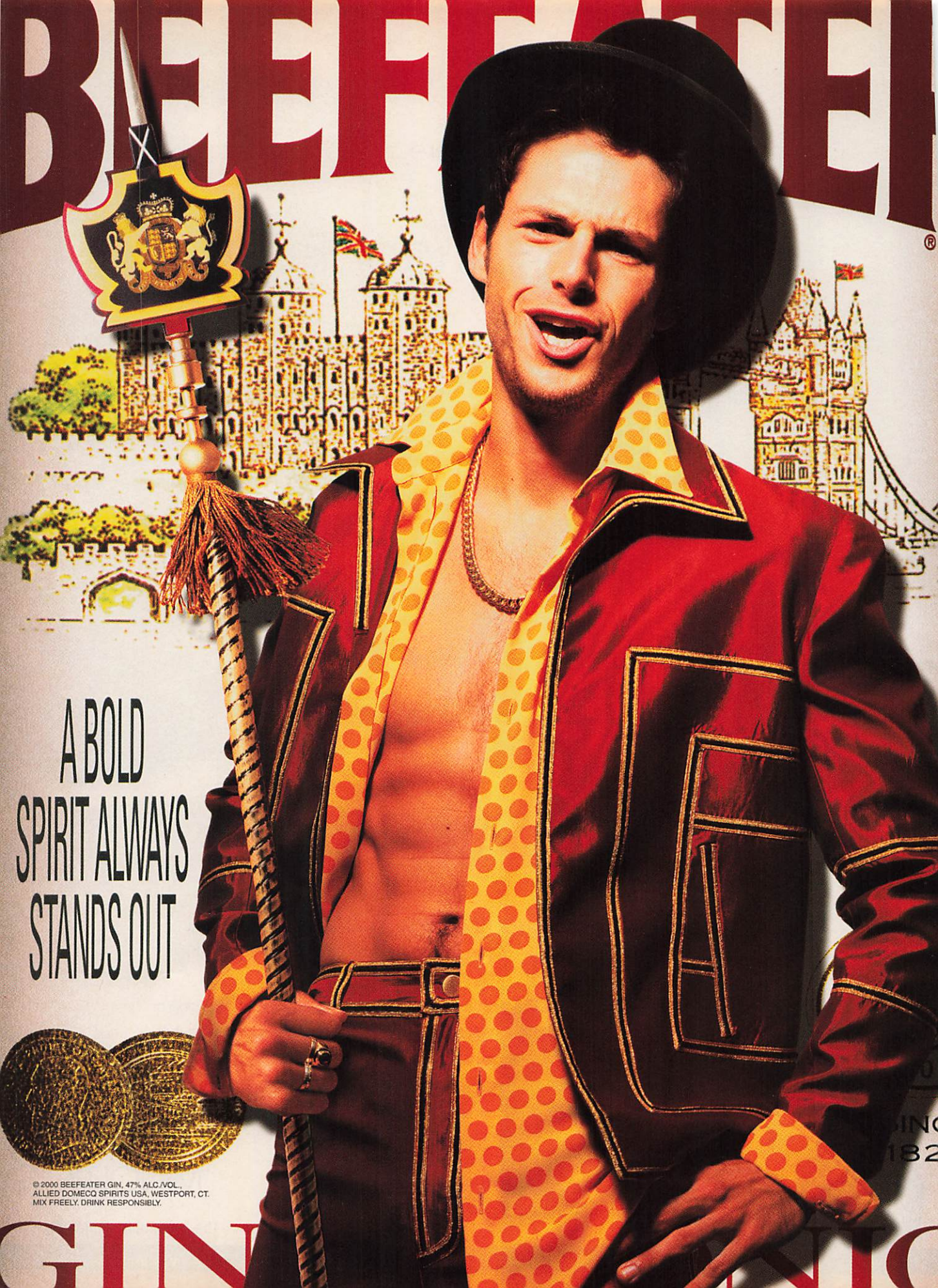
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OCTOBER
2001
VOLUME 7
NUMBER 10

YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE®

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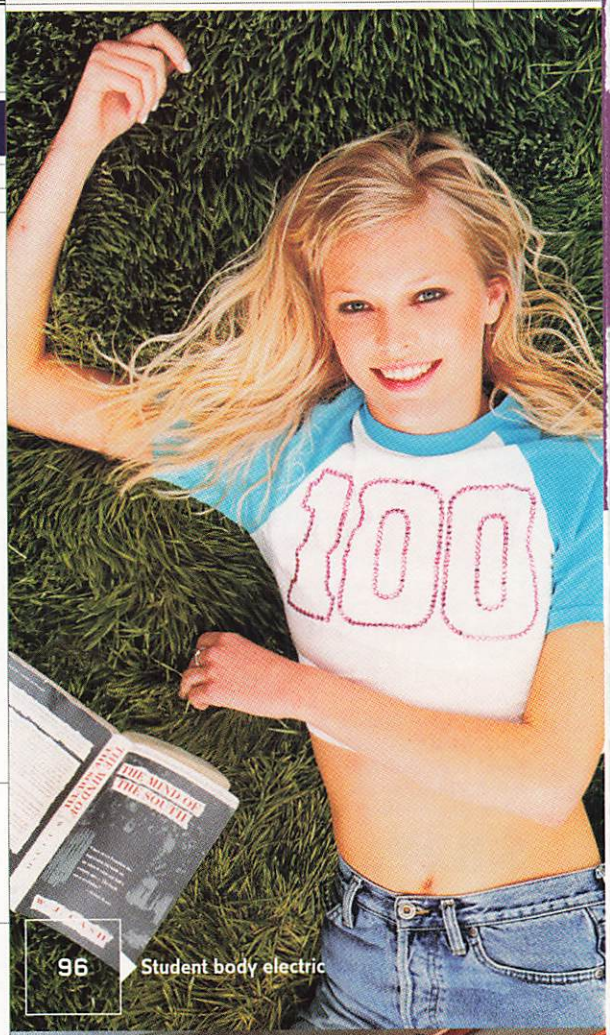


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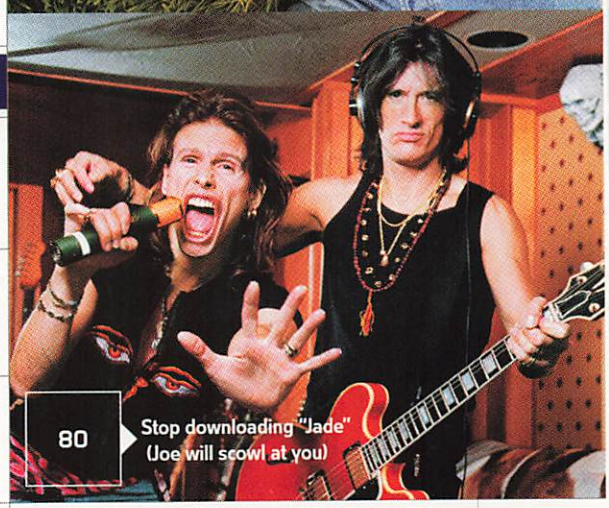

80 ▸ Stop downloading "Jade" (Joe will scowl at you)

# DELL™ NOTEBOOKS:

## DELL™ INSPIRON™ 2500

Great System, Great Price

- Intel® Celeron™ Processor at 800MHz
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No payments for 90 days.[12] E-VALUE Code: 00138-800910m

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Thin & Light

- Intel® Pentium® III Processor at 800MHz featuring Intel® SpeedStep™ Technology
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- Modular 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 8MB AGP 2X ATI Rage Mobility 128™ 3D Video
- 3D Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 26.5WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- MS® Works Suite 2001
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- 192MB 100MHz SDRAM
- 20GB[5] Ultra ATA Hard Drive
- Modular 8X Max DVD-ROM Drive
- 8MB AGP 2X ATI Rage Mobility 128™ 3D Video
- 3D Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 26.5 WHr Li-Ion Battery with ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- MS® Works Suite 2001
- MS® Windows® Me
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- 3D Positional Sound with Wavetable
- 59WHr Li-Ion Battery w/ExpressCharge™ Technology
- Internal 56K Capable[6] FaxModem
- MS® Works Suite 2001
- MS® Windows® Me
- 1-Yr Limited Warranty,[2] 1-Yr Mail-in Service 1-Yr 24x7 Phone Support
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- HP® ScanJet® 4400Cse, add $99 after $50 HP® Mail-in Rebate[38] (Reg. $149)

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  - 3-Yr Ltd Warranty,[2] 3-Yr Mail-in Service and 3-Yr 24x7 Phone Support, add $119
  - 3-Yr Ltd Warranty,[2] 3-Yr Next-Business-Day On-Site Service[4] and Lifetime 24x7 Phone Support, add $219

**[10]Telephone access (call your phone co. for details) and other surcharges for access may apply. Must register within 30 days of invoice and accept DellNet/MSN Terms of Service.** You agree to be billed monthly fees after the initial service period. You may cancel service at any time. Offer valid for new customers only in U.S. households and must be over 18 years old with major credit card. Limited time offer. **[12]Monthly payment based on 13.99% APR FOR QUALIFIED CUSTOMERS. OFFER VARIES BY CREDITWORTHINESS OF CUSTOMER AS DETERMINED BY LENDER. Under 90 Days Same-As-Cash feature, interest accrues during first 90 days if balance not paid within 90 days. Customers not eligible for 90 Days Same-As-Cash feature may be offered standard 48-month financing with APRs ranging from 16.99% to 26.99%. Example: $1,650 purchase price, at 19.99%, 48 monthly payments at $51. Taxes and shipping charges extra and vary. From American Investment Bank, N.A. or CIT OnLine Bank to U.S. residents with approved credit.**

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# 1.8GHz. my friends are envious. my enemies are scared.

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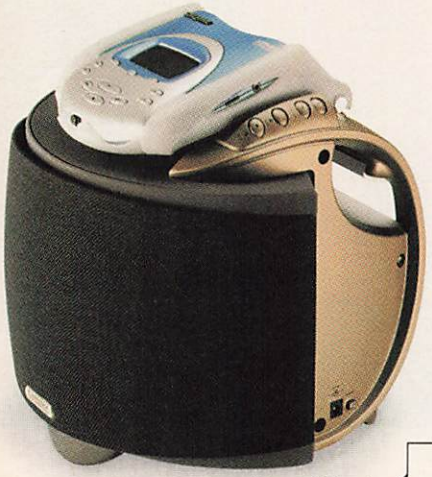

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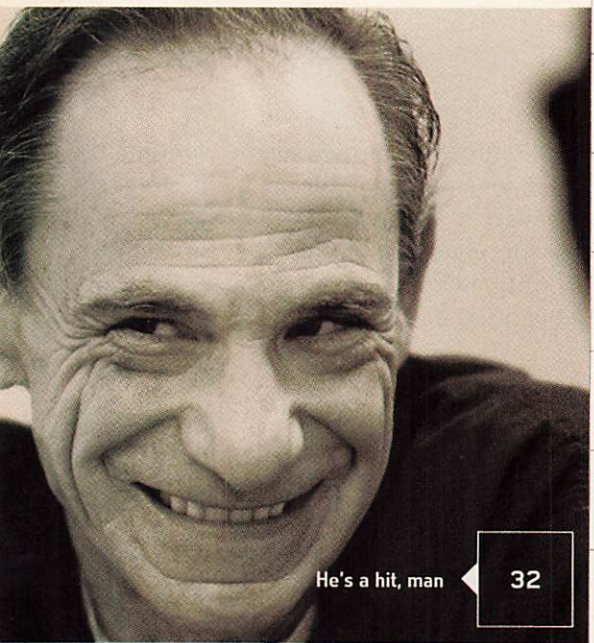

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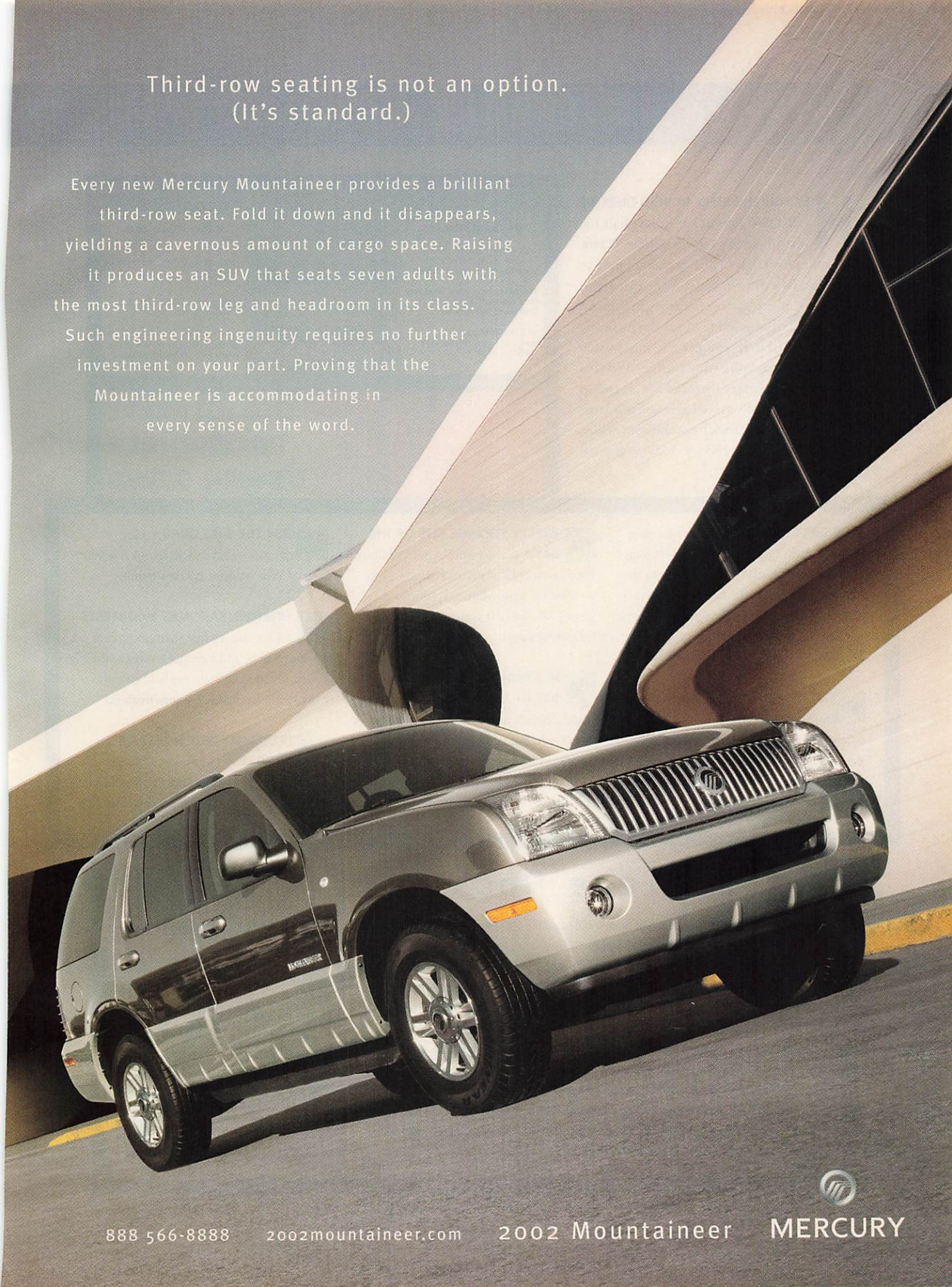
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**DAILY NET BUZZ ▸** Every morning, Steve Knopper scours the Web, then assembles the ultimate briefing for your day online. Whether it's the latest on an overseas crisis or vicious infighting in an 'N Sync newsgroup, Steve will point you to whatever's most relevant today. **[yil.com/buzz]**

**FORWARD/JOKE OF THE DAY ▸** Supermodel wisdom. Twisted Seuss. The evil Bill Gates. Dog doggerel. The Darwin Awards. Cat poetry. Office torture ideas. Bagpipe humor. Need we say more? **[yil.com/forward]**

**PRETTY STRANGE SITE OF THE DAY ▸** Cat albums. Am I All Your Base or Not? God Hates Barbers. Poke the Bunny. Your Mama. You want it weird? We make it your way, every day. **[yil.com/strange]**

**NET RADIO STATION OF THE DAY ▸** Classic rock. Cool jazz. Bone-crunching death metal. The news in French. Police bulletins. Barnyard noises. Hockey call-in shows. If it's audible, someone's probably Webcasting it. Find out here. **[yil.com/radio]**

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**INCREDIBLY USEFUL SITE OF THE DAY ▸** The life-improving sites you love. Learn about wine, ace chemistry, plan a trip, and more. **[yil.com/useful]**

## College Rock

On page 96 of this issue, you'll find our annual list of the 100 Most Wired Colleges and Universities—but for some of you, 100 just isn't enough. You want the bigger picture. You want the whole story. You want to see your kid's school *somewhere* on that &#%@ list. In short, you want *more schools.* Hey, we can do that. Visit **YIL.com/colleges**, where you'll find our deluxe list of America's 200 Most Wired Colleges and Universities.

Other observant readers may have noticed a musical theme to this issue. But we don't just talk about this stuff. We also give out statuettes to artists who are making the Internet a groovier place. This year's shindig is Yahoo! Internet Life's Fourth Annual Online Music Awards celebration, and it's happening on September 20 in New York City. Hop onto **YIL.com/musicawards** to find out who won and who rocked the house.

Oh, and we're still serializing Douglas Rushkoff's *Exit Strategy*, the first open-source novel. Come read it—and help write it—at **YIL.com/rushkoff.**

# 30 DAYS OF WHAT'S NEW, WHAT'S HOT, AND WHAT-THE-HECK-IS-THAT?

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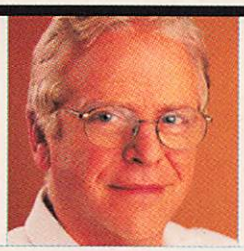
# EDITOR'S NOTE



## Music Hath Charms...

**FROM THE BEGINNING, WE'VE BEEN FASCINATED BY ON**line music. It's a true bellwether for the Internet, the canary chirping in the coal mine, and it presages what will happen when the file-sharing of other forms of digitized content—print, film, video—clashes with entrenched interests and outdated copyright laws. Plus, we just love to download tunes.

In this, our annual online music issue, we take you beyond the recent Napster battles to the Net reality that has frustrated corporate America again and again: People keep thinking up new ways to do things online, usually for the hell of it, usually for free. Of course, copyright laws must ultimately be respected, but until the music firms get their act together (as the movie studios recently claimed *they* have—we'll see), fans will continue to swap tunes. In "Can't Stop the Music," contributor **CHARLES C. MANN** explains why there's more "free" music out there than ever, and what will be happening in the trenches as lawyers, programmers, musicians, and suits fret over their business plans. Then, in "Rip, Rattle, and Roll," **CHRISTOPHER NULL** tells you how to make it all work for you until the battling music moguls can sing in harmony.

**Net reality has frustrated corporate America again and again: People keep thinking up new ways to do things online, usually for the hell of it, usually for free**

This year marks the fourth *Yahoo! Internet Life* Online Music Awards, and we've got finalists for you in various music categories, selected by our all-star music-biz panel and compiled by senior editor **BILGE EBIRI**. For the winners, check **[yilmusicawards.com]** after September 20. The indefatigable Aerosmith, represented on our cover by front man **STEVE TYLER**, is performing at the event, and band members sat down with executive editor **LARRY SMITH** for an interview on all matters musical and digital.

Of course, college students are probably the most avid downloaders of all (I don't think I want to know *everything* my two sons have on their hard drives—but I'll bet it's not all tunes). The Internet is now an integral part of academic life, and this issue marks the fifth appearance of our ranking of the nation's "100 Most Wired Colleges," headed by senior editor **ROB BERNSTEIN** and senior associate editor **JEREMY CAPLAN**. There's been so much technological progress on campuses since our first ranking that some of the early categories we checked for—ports in every room, for instance—are now commonplace. We've revamped the list to make it easier for parents and prospective students to pinpoint areas of strength or weakness that may matter to them. For the few universities whose IT departments decided not to cooperate with our survey, we did our own reporting—with the help of student journalists, among others. You know who you are, and we thank you. You'll find rankings for 100 additional schools at **[wiredcolleges.com]**.

And in the spirit of hey-it's-not-all-about-beer-and-free-tunes, this month's Web Lab has contributor **ALAN COHEN** road testing and selecting the best sites for student research. These are excellent family resources, and they put me in mind of a sister publication that covered this kind of ground with great energy: *Family PC*, owned by our parent company, and recently shut down for economic reasons. Its editor, **ROBIN RASKIN**, as indefatigable in her own way as Steve Tyler, believed passionately in her mission to explain tech to families. I'll miss her, as will her colleagues and readers.

X Barry Golson

*BARRY GOLSON, EDITOR IN CHIEF*

JAY GULLIXSON

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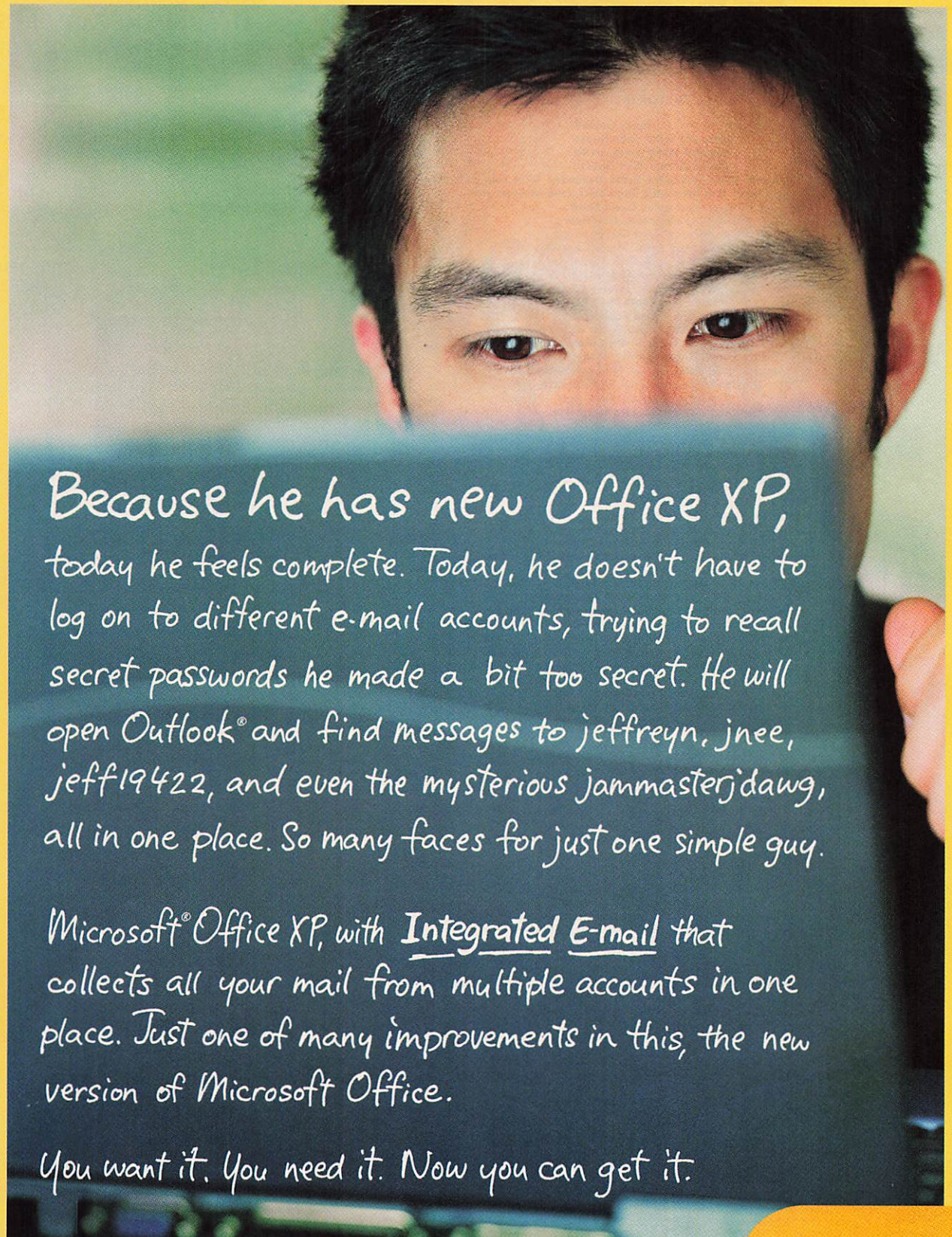


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# MESSAGE CENTER

## WHO SAYS PRINT ISN'T INTERACTIVE?

Letters to the editor: Write to yilmail@ziffdavis.com

### KICKING BACK

Yesterday's mail brought me another copy of *YIL* and an opportunity (excuse) to put my feet up, stop work, and relax with the magazine. I enjoyed the article by Bilge Ebiri on *Final Fantasy* ["Dream Girl," August '01, page 91]. I'm now eager to read more about digital animation. The movie itself was more than I could have hoped for in terms of graphic art and digital animation, and most of the time I had to concentrate to determine if the "players" were real or not.

**B.A. CLAYTON**
**@hotmail.com**

### STOP DREAMING

Reading "Dream Girl" made me wonder. Aki Ross may be considered a babe, but there comes a time when we shouldn't wish for someone perfect. This character is artificial. Period. We all have our fantasies, but let's try to stick to reality.

**DIANA DIAMOND**
**@yahoo.com**

*Bilge Ebiri replies: Take a closer look at Aki's cover shot. Her complexion is hardly a cosmetologist's even-toned fantasy. Nobody's perfect—even Aki's got dermatology bills.*

### FILM FANTASY

The latest issue of *Yahoo! Internet Life* was exciting, especially when I started reading about the film *Final Fantasy*. One day the world will be without movie stars because they will all be electronic, cybernetic, artificial celebrities created within a computer. We will bring back great stars such as John Wayne and W.C. Fields. There could be a new *Three Stooges* movie made, with the "original" Moe, Larry, and Curly. Ahh... isn't technology amazing?

**CAPT. ROBERT CHARLES MITCHELL II**
**@cs.com**

### CUTTING OUT PORN

In "A Controversy Not for Adults Only," [August '01, page 80] Roger Ebert's argument was that Yahoo! should be ashamed of unlinking from porn. But those who browse through portals such as Yahoo! are in fact depending on them to do some filtering. Otherwise, why bother? Just as a cashbox with a padlock helps keep honest men honest, so the unlinking of a few porn sites may keep moral men moral. It's a stretch, perhaps, but when some are prone to thinking that availability is legitimacy, making some things unavailable is courageous and noble.

**MATT BRAATEN**
**@neca.com**

*Roger Ebert replies: If Yahoo! were advertised as a Net Nanny–type directory, that would be one thing, but it continues to host adult clubs and link to adult sites. Anyone "depending on them to do some filtering" is on the wrong page. Yahoo! does, by the way, separate adult content from regular searches, and it posts an age disclaimer on adult sections.*

### JAPANAMANIA

I just read the article by Charles C. Mann ["Why 14-Year-Old Japanese Girls Rule the World," August '01, page 98], and there are a few things I would like to add. I am 15 and one of a small but growing group of individualists who call themselves *otaku*, which translates roughly as "fanatic." We have an obsession with Japanese *anime* and Japanese culture. We are also into J-pop and keep track of how people in Japan act. Quite a few of us, myself included, speak Japanese. Our group actually dresses closer to those girls than you might think (and we'd never enter a Gap store, either—*shudder*). But the difference is that over in Japan it's very trendy, while here most of us despise just being "trendy" for its own sake. Not all Americans are ignorant droids who only follow the next big thing. I actually like *anime* more *because* it's not the next big thing.

**CHRISTIN HANEY**
**@truthmail.com**

UPDATE: **InoculateIt Personal Edition [antivirus.cai.com]** and **eSafe Desktop 3.0 [ealaddin.com/esafe/desktop/index.asp]** no longer offer free antivirus protection. Next month's Surf Guru will feature some new tips on virus programs, but for now, scan your system for viruses for free with **McAfee.com: VirusScan Online [mcafee.com/anti-virus]**.

**You talkin' to us? We hope so. Write to yilmail@ziffdavis.com.**

## SITE GAG

"I've met someone with a faster modem."

## YIL.COMMENTS

Still haven't managed to pen that Great American Novel? Here's your chance. Posing as 23rd-century annotators, *Y-Life* readers are online helping Douglas Rushkoff write his latest fiction title, *Exit Strategy*. Check out this sample of their recent contributions:

"My limo made its way over the Triborough Bridge into Manhattan[1]. There were fresh newspapers[2] neatly tucked into the chair backs[3]."

[1] Now Trumphattan.

[2] Large pieces of living trees with printed opinions and views of the day's events. Also used as fuel.

[3] Reading material was often held in handy pockets in the backs of chairs or seating, after the fashion pioneered by 20th-century airlines, notorious for their cramped long-haul international flights.

*Add your own annotations to the novel at yil.com/rushkoff.*

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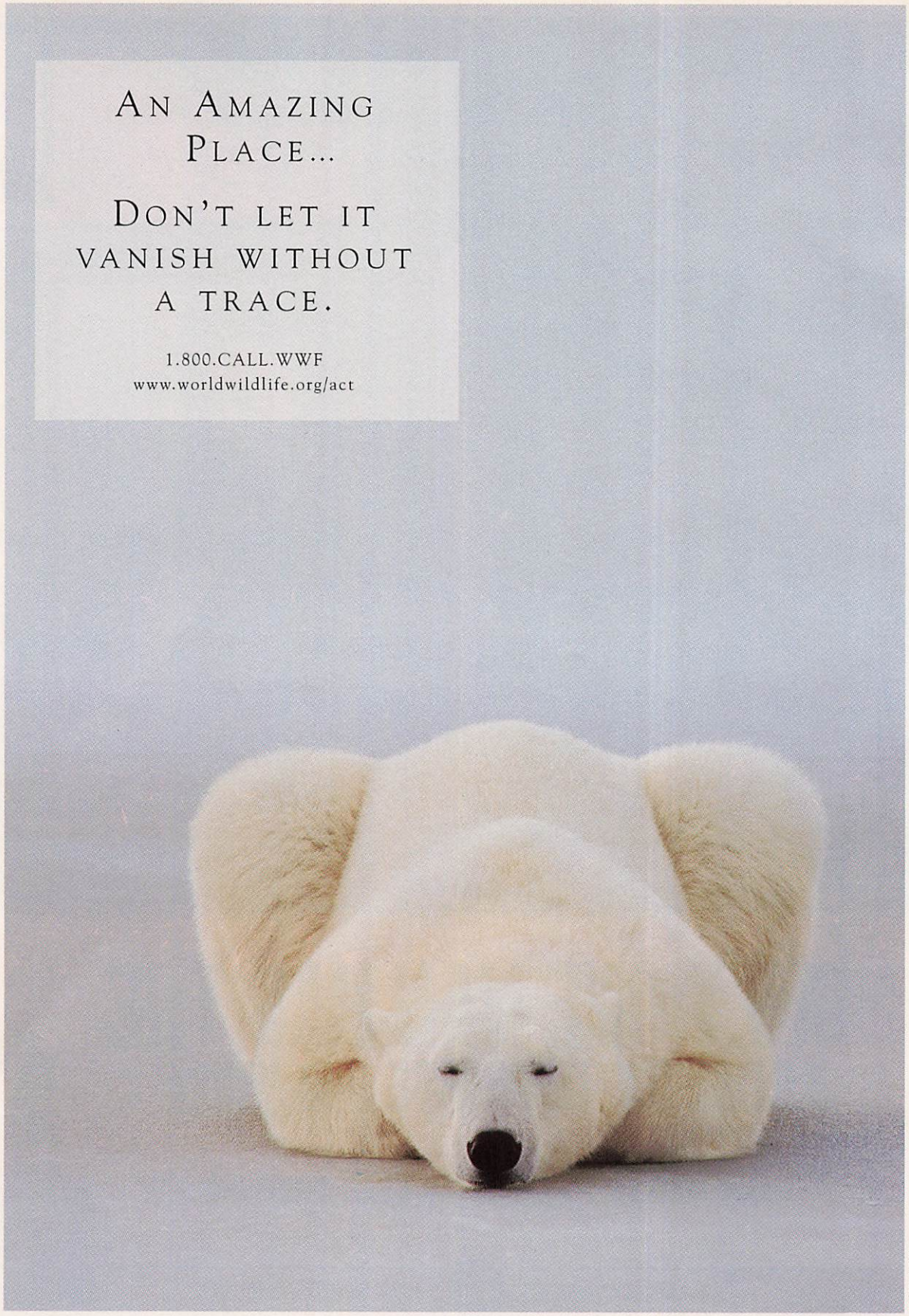

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People, Places, and Trends on the Net >>> Edited by Ron Bel Bruno

OCTOBER 2001

## THE ART OF THE MATTER

Globe-trotters such as Peggy Guggenheim may have been able to continent-hop on a whim to ogle the latest in modern art, but you might not be flexible enough to make that quick jaunt to Bilbao or Venice. No problem. The designers of **Guggenheim.com** have unveiled a digital gift to culture-seekers strapped for time and cash. The site re-creates Guggenheim exhibits such as *The World of Nam June Paik,* whose laser and projection-screen installation is seen here. Video clips and up-close photography in *The Art of the Motorcycle* are so sharp that you can almost smell the well-oiled engines. Curious types will appreciate the encyclopedic database compiled from the permanent collections and resources of the museum's partner institutions, including Russia's State Hermitage Museum. For when you *can* get away, the travel section racks up points for both utility and sophistication, clueing you in about events and exhibits in more than 50 cities worldwide. If you've ever dreamed of taking behind-the-scenes tours of Indian and Spanish museums, pull out your credit card—you're in the right place. **MEAGHAN O'NEILL**


32 HE DIDN'T JUST WATCH *THE SOPRANOS.* HE LIVED IT. HENRY HILL, **THE ORIGINAL GOODFELLA,** COMES OUT OF HIDING ON THE WEB

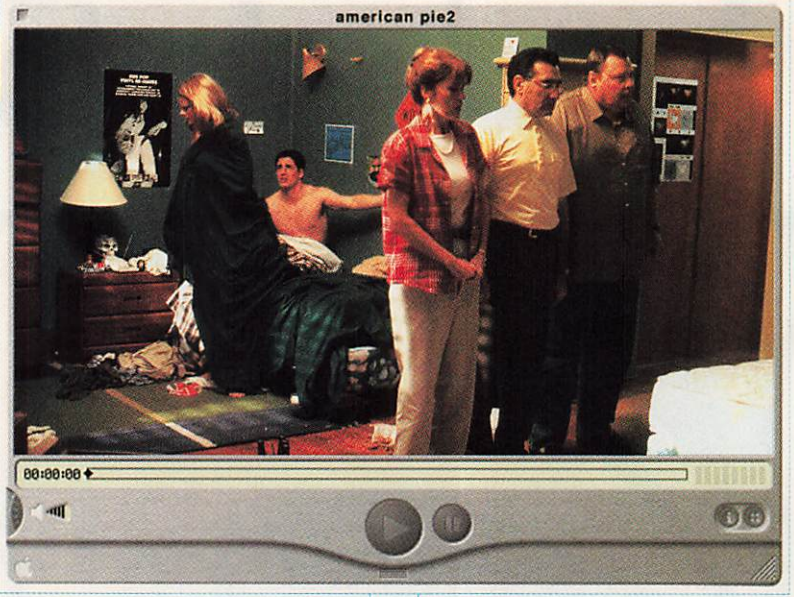
34 DON'T RUN THE RISK OF HAVING YOUR BOSS READ YOUR ELECTRONIC BILLETS-DOUX. HERE ARE THE BEST WAYS TO **SECURE YOUR E-MAIL**

40 AT LAST, **TAKE ADVANTAGE OF UNCLE SAM.** ONLINE, YOU CAN RAID THE FEDS' QUIRKY WAREHOUSES AND FIND DEALS ON CARS, HOMES—EVEN WILD BURROS


*MODULATION IN SYNC: SWEET AND SUBLIME, 2000* BY NAM JUNE PAIK; PHOTO BY DAVID HEALD

# Click! around the net

## Net Briefs




### FINGERS IN THE PIE

For better or for worse, it's easier than ever to download the smash Hollywood blockbuster you saw last week. Now it seems such rip-offs can happen before films even premiere. In the days leading up to *American Pie 2*'s opening, rumors abounded that stolen copies were circulating online. Though later reports claimed that the downloads were decoys, don't be surprised if you see future releases on the Net before they hit the multiplex.

**So?** *The film industry isn't happy, but it has an online play of its own cooked up. For details, see "Going Legit," page 51.*

### DON'T BET ON IT

San Francisco resident Jay Cohen has been sentenced to a 21-month prison term for operating an offshore sports betting operation. The shuttering of Cohen's Antigua-based venture marks the first federal conviction of an offshore online bookmaker under the Federal Wire Wager Act.

**So?** *They're going after the big fish. No word yet on whether individual U.S. gamblers are in danger.*

### TAKING OUT THE TRASH

A special federal task force has shut down Landslide Productions, the largest commercial child-porn ring uncovered to date. More than 250,000 surfers worldwide subscribed to the service's abominable Web sites before the Feds' sting operation made more than 100 arrests.

**So?** *Finally, government intervention on the Net that's doing some good.*

### JUDICIAL DISCRETION

Are your mouse clicks being monitored at work? When judges of the Ninth U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in San Francisco found out that theirs were, they banded together to disable the monitoring software. Though administrators who initiated the check claim that half of the court's Net usage was personal, the judges felt that such surveillance is inappropriate and possibly illegal.

**So?** *While this could develop into an interesting case, the law still says that your employer can keep tabs on you as much as he wants.*

### BUSY SIGNALS

America Online and MSN flunked a recent *Consumer Reports* survey, with respondents citing unreliable dial-up connections and poor technical support. The providers scored 68 and 67, respectively, on a 0–100 scale. AT&T WorldNet (at 78) earned top honors.

**So?** *Between AOL and MSN, about 25 percent of Net surfers are under duress.*

## 'Bankruptcy never felt so good'

A PLASTIC.COM REPRESENTATIVE, ON WINNING A WEBBY AWARD

### CIAO, LONELYTOWN

In 1998, Carnegie Mellon professor Dr. Robert Kraut linked heavy Net usage to loneliness and depression—and the press was ecstatic. Now Kraut says the study's subjects aren't nearly as lonely or depressed. The report lends further weight to a recent Pew Internet and American Life Project study in which 60 percent of respondents said that the Net was a positive influence on personal relationships.

**So?** *Next time you see a scary headline about the Net (or anything else) rotting your brain, take it with a grain of salt.*

### IF YOU CAN'T BEAT IT, CENSOR IT

Afghanistan's ruling Taliban regime has banned Net use in an attempt to "control all those things that are wrong, obscene, immoral, and against Islam." Meanwhile, Chinese Communist officials have shut down 8,000 Internet cafés as an ostensible antidote to the "online poison" damaging the nation's youth.

**So?** *Strong-arm governments mark some successes, but the Net plays on.*

**THE CLICK AROUND THE NET CLIQUE:** JEREMY CAPLAN, BILGE EBIRI, MEGAN GERRITY, MEAGHAN O'NEILL. WRITE TO CLICK AT CLICK@ZIFFDAVIS.COM.

AMERICAN PIE 2: VIVIAN ZINK

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# Click! around the net

## Save! Smart Moves...

### CELL-PHONE SILENCER

Forget passive smoke. Passive noise is America's new pet peeve. A new technology from BlueLinx called **Q-Zone [bluelinx.com/products.html]** promises to allow restaurants and theaters to wirelessly set patrons' cell phones to silent mode.

### PCS FOR THE PEOPLE

India's scientists are developing a **Simputer [simputer.org]**, a low-cost pocket computer for the masses. The system will run on three AAA batteries, allowing it operate in regions lacking electricity, and it will ship in March with text-to-speech software for surfers who can't read.

### TEACHERS' PETS

In high school parlance, PDA means "public display of affection"—unless you attend Forsyth Country Day School in Winston-Salem, N.C., where lucky teens will receive free "personal digital assistants," which they are required to use in class.

## Delete! ...Dubious Deeds

### CELL PHONE DING-A-LINGS

Mobile phoners who leave their ring volume on High should be slapped with a fine. Those who personalize their ringers with electronic versions of "Bootylicious" and other hits downloaded from **Ringtones.com** should just be slapped, period.

### OVER THE TOP?

Many video games are hyperviolent. But they're tame when compared with Killing Children at Ikeda Elementary School, a game based on the real-life slaying of eight Japanese children. After police pressure, the game's creator took it offline.

### MAIL-JACKINGS

Melbourne, Australia–based **Reva Networks [www.revanetworks.com]** says it has created a technology that will allow ISPs to insert ads into your e-mail without your consent. That way, Grandma can read about your travels while she considers whether to sign up for HighSchoolHotties.com.

**"A fan in a bar told me I looked like the guy from *The Sopranos*. My friend told her that I was, and she said, 'No. The guy from *The Sopranos* is much taller and better-looking.'"**

JASON CERBONE, THE FORMER JACKIE JR. ON *THE SOPRANOS*, IN A TALK CITY CHAT

## Top of the Net

### WEB TOPPERS

The most popular sites among Web surfers.*

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| 1 | AOL TIME WARNER NETWORK** | 72.5 |
| 2 | MICROSOFT SITES** | 61.5 |
| 3 | YAHOO.COM** | 59.9 |
| 4 | X10.COM | 34.2 |
| 5 | TERRA-LYCOS** | 33.3 |

*Unique visitors, in millions, during June
**Aggregated sites
Jupiter Media Metrix (jmm.com) measures the preferences of 60,000 Net surfers. Apparent ties are the result of rounding.

### MOVIES

The top-selling DVD titles at Amazon.com.

1. **STAR WARS EPISODE I: THE PHANTOM MENACE**
2. **THE GODFATHER DVD COLLECTION**
3. **CROUCHING TIGER, HIDDEN DRAGON**
4. **THE MUMMY RETURNS—COLLECTOR'S EDITION (wide screen)**
5. **SNATCH**

Rankings reflect July sales.

### BOOKS

The top-selling hardcover fiction titles at Amazon.com.

1. **TELL NO ONE,** Harlan Coben
2. **UP IN THE AIR,** Walter Kirn
3. **BACK WHEN WE WERE GROWNUPS,** Anne Tyler
4. **RISE TO REBELLION,** Jeff Shaara
5. **HOW TO BE GOOD,** Nick Hornby

Rankings reflect sales for the week ending 7/31.

## netobsessions

### The Girl

ROSE McGOWAN

The former *Scream* victim and onetime Marilyn Manson paramour should have no problem filling Shannen Doherty's Wiccan shoes on the WB's *Charmed*. Die-hard fans of the show are already spellbound by the actress. Start @ **Kiss From a Rose [lavender.fortunecity.com/dale/536]**

### The Thing

NET TRACKERS

The curious minds behind PhotoTag have released 14 disposable cameras into "the wild" in hopes they'll be returned someday—along with some interesting shots of the world. Captured pictures will be posted at the project's Web site for all to see. Start @ **PhotoTag [phototag.org]**

### The Guy

VIN DIESEL

The film *The Fast and the Furious* jump-started his career. For his next trick, the combustible actor stars opposite John Malkovich and Dennis Hopper in the mob flick *Knockaround Guys*. Get your Diesel engine running at one of his 53 adoring Yahoo! clubs. Start @ **Diesel Power [clubs.yahoo.com/clubs/dieselpower]**

ALBERT SANCHEZ/CORBIS OUTLINE

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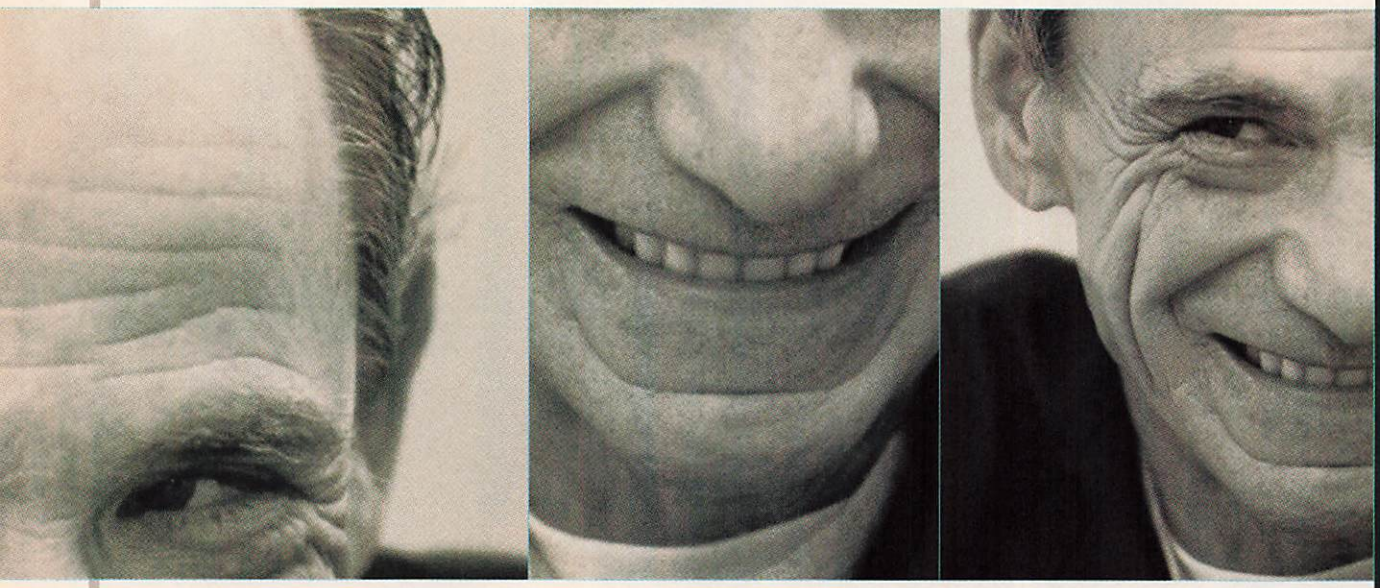

# CONNECTED TO THE MOB

**FOR FORMER MAFIA RAT HENRY HILL, THE WEB IS AN EX-GANGSTA'S PARADISE**

In 1987, infamous mob informant Henry Hill—whose life story was the subject of the book *Wiseguy*, subsequently made into the film *Goodfellas* by Martin Scorsese—was kicked out of the federal witness protection program after a series of run-ins with the law. Ever since, he's had to keep a low profile to avoid getting "whacked."

This year Hill, still kicking, discovered the Web, which offered him an irresistible opportunity: a forum for reflecting on life in the mob without compromising his safety.

At **Goodfella Henry [goodfellahenry.com]**—probably the only site that "frisks" its visitors before allowing them to enter—surfers can e-mail Hill directly or read through his online musings, which include captioned photos of himself with former gangster buddies as well as a text-based tour of his old Mafia stamping ground in Brooklyn. The site also boasts the tongue-in-cheek guide How to Be a Mobster, which reveals the Mafia's favorite murder weapons (ice picks are the preferred tool) and tips on hiding a corpse (always bury a body with lime). And like the rest of the Web, Hill is testing the e-commerce waters, selling movie posters and "Just Whack It!" T-shirts.

"I have to make a living," says Hill, who has no qualms about exploiting America's fascination with Mafia life. He's even writing an Italian-food cookbook for wiseguys on the run and consulting on a video game called Henry Hill's Mob World, which will allow gamers to live a virtual version of gangster life. Says Hill about his projects, "I'm a f---in' rebel, and I do what I have to do to make it."

That said, Hill insists that his online business is totally legit. In addition, he says he's now an observant Jew who attends Torah study four times a week. But while he may have found God, it's obvious that Hill still gets a thrill from reminiscing about "the business" on his site. He also enjoys checking in with **Jerry Capeci's Gang Land: Real Stuff About Organized Crime [ganglandnews.com]**, a site that chronicles the lives of current mobsters and their lawless exploits. "I know some goodfellas in jail who get printouts of the site," says Hill. "These guys have egos the size of the Empire State Building, and they love reading about themselves."

Hill's other guilty pleasure is HBO's *The Sopranos*, a favorite TV program. "But the show turns my stomach," he says, wincing. "Tony Soprano? Christ, he reminds me of every mob guy I've been around. I can't watch the show with anyone else in the room."

To this day, Hill says, he receives death threats. However, the majority of them now come through his Web site. A recent e-mail in the Threat of the Week warned, "You're one dead son of a bitch."

"It probably came from some pimple-faced kid in Montana who's watched *Goodfellas* 80 times," jokes Hill, who says he's unfazed by such messages. "A wiseguy ain't going to make a threat over the Net."

For now, the Web is a perfectly safe hideout for Hill, who's pleased that he's responsible for the right kind of hits, for once. Yet he's confounded by all the attention. "It's beyond me, this fascination with the mob life," he says. "People may like reading about it or watching it, but if they were inside 'the Life' for two hours, they'd pick up their lunch pail and get back on the f---in' bus!" **JEREMY CAPLAN**

AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS

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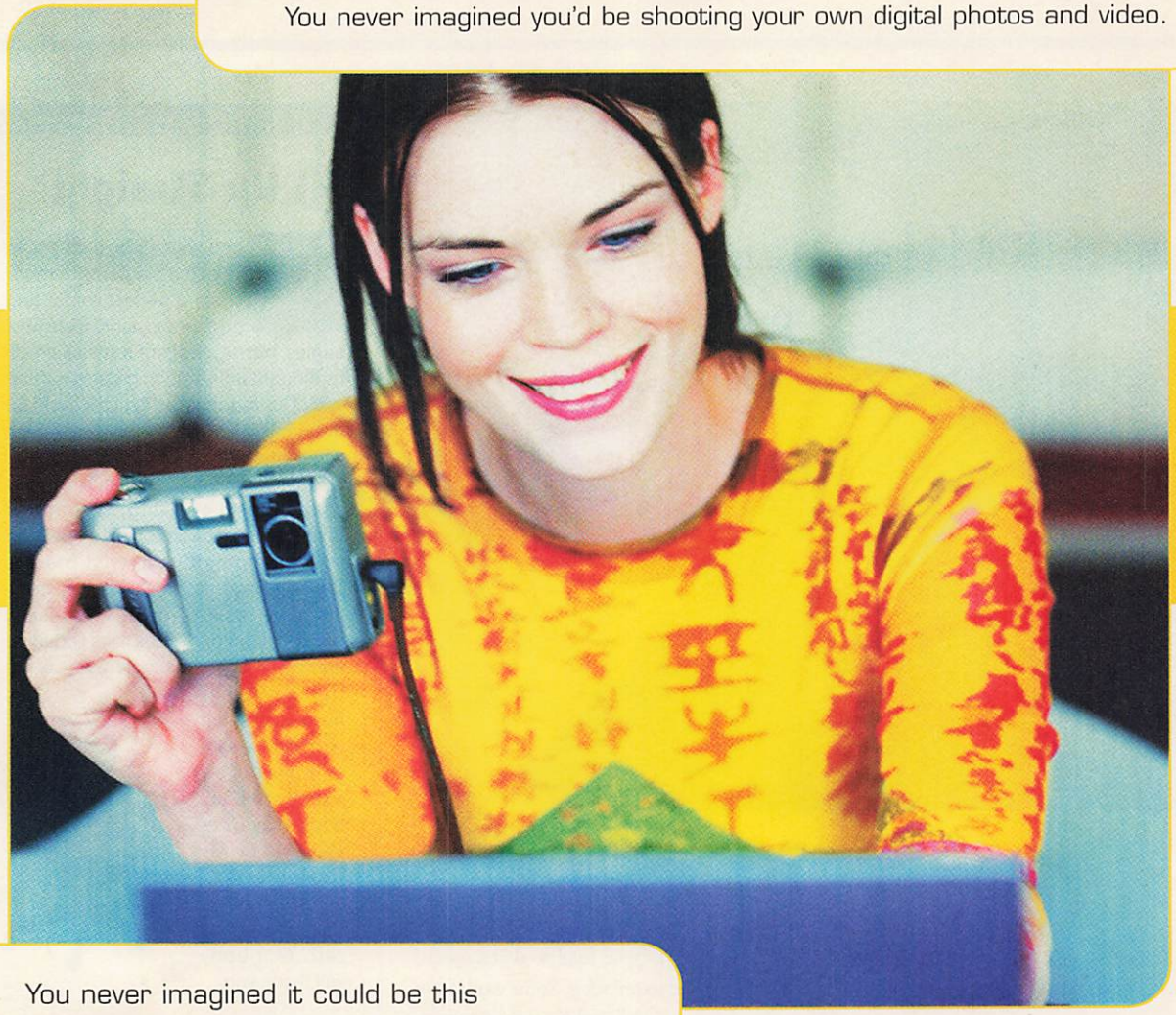

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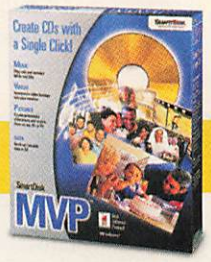


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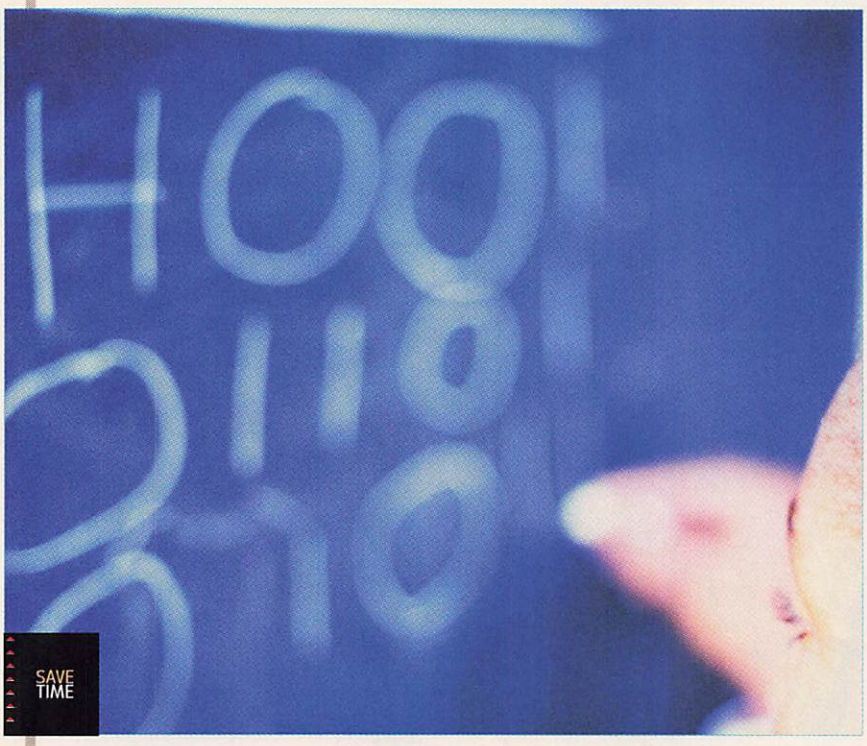
LET THE NET DO IT BETTER



SAVE TIME

# ON THE Q.T.

## FRUSTRATE SNOOPS BY USING AN E-MAIL ENCRYPTION SERVICE

Who could sneak a peek at your e-mail? Plenty of people: hackers with packet-sniffing software (for more on such issues, see Privacy Watch, page 72), your employer (if you're sending from work), or your ISP (when sending from home). But don't feel like a victim: All of the services below can safeguard your messages at a reasonable price. While they work in different ways, they all encrypt your mail so that a special key is needed to unlock it. Some work from your browser, while others integrate with your e-mail program. One product, SafeMessage, is actually an instant-messaging program, letting you exchange notes in real time. If none of these services sounds right to you, don't despair. The U.S. Postal Service is currently working on its own system, NetPost.Certified, which should be available soon. And you won't need to stand in line to use it. **TROY DREIER**

| SITE | PRICE | PLATFORM | FREE/PAID SPACE | FEATURES | RECIPIENT NEEDS SAME SERVICE |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| CERTIFIEDMAIL (CERTIFIEDMAIL.COM) | 30 days free; $5 or $10/month | All (browser-based) | 2MB (for 30 days)/25–100MB | Works with Outlook, Notes; wireless version | No |
| HUSHMAIL.COM | Free personal plan; $20 setup, $30/year | Windows 95/98/NT | 5MB/32MB and up | Digital signatures | Yes, for mail to be encrypted |
| MAILSAFE (MAILSAFE.ORG) | $75/year | All (browser-based) | None/10MB | Cancel messages before they're read | No, but recipients need password |
| SAFEMESSAGE (SAFEMESSAGE.COM) | $299/year for two people | Windows 95/98/NT/2000/Me | N/A; messages are instant | Send self-destructing instant messages | Yes |
| ZIXMAIL (WWW.ZIXIT.COM) | 30 days free; $24/year | Windows 95/98/NT/2000/Me | Unlimited free space for up to 30 days | Time-stamped delivery receipts | No |

## netsavers

### Sit Up Straight

SAVE TIME

Ugh, your aching back. You've seen the diagrams demonstrating perfect computing posture and appropriate wrist angles, but ergonomics remains an afterthought until stabbing pains remind you of its importance. Plant both feet on the floor, roll your head on your neck a few times, do some healthy shoulder stretches, and get a quick refresher course at **Everything Ergonomic (everythingergonomic.net)**, a one-stop source jammed with wrist braces, footrests, trays, document holders, monitor filters, split keyboards, headsets, and infinitely adjustable chairs (including that symbol of dot-com decadence, the Herman Miller Aeron, $699). If you want to learn even more, throw a copy of the $15 book *Why Does Working @ My Computer Hurt So Much?* into your shopping cart. Your body will thank you.

### House Warming

SAVE MONEY

If the headlines are to be believed, the hottest thing this winter will be your temper on the day your heating bill arrives. As the cold weather approaches, head up into the attic to do some thinking about how best to keep your house warm. **Simply Insulate (simplyinsulate.com)** can get you started. The site, developed by the North American Insulation Manufacturers Association, takes you on a tour of your home to show you where insulation is most needed. Indicate your home state for detailed suggestions about the type of insulation (measured by R-value) that's called for. Then use the directory to click over to your local power company and see if you can get rebates or discounts after you upgrade. **DON WILLMOTT**

CHALKBOARD: JULIE SMITH/GETTYONE; AERON CHAIR: COURTESY OF HERMAN MILLER INC.

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# Click! ▸ incredibly useful sites™

THIS MONTH'S MOST PRACTICAL DESTINATIONS BY RICHARD BUTNER

## Grow Any Plant

Flowers may wilt when you walk by, but that doesn't mean you can't learn how to be a successful amateur horticulturist. Brush up at **PlantCare.com**, where you can search a database of more than 1,300 species of houseplants (and greenhouse plants) by name, type, or environmental conditions. Pictures, information, and care tips will keep your palm trees green and your orchids blooming, while information on dealing with common pests will keep your plants bug-free.

## Block Ad Tracking

Some of the Net's nosier advertisers use cookies to track your movement from site to site. If you don't like it, you can do something about it. To get a smidgen of your privacy back, use the opt-out form at the **Network Advertising Initiative [networkadvertising.org/optout_nonppii.asp]**. Check off a few boxes and hit Submit to tell several ad organizations at once that you no longer want to be tracked. There's a tool to verify that you've successfully opted out, as well as information on each of the ad networks so that you can make informed choices about which ones you want to exclude.

## End Disputes Peacefully

If you're trying to settle a conflict, don't throw a punch, and don't even hire a lawyer: Look for a "dispute resolution service." Start your search at the **Dispute Resolution Directory [adr.martindale.com]**. This slice of the Martindale-Hubbell Legal Network lets you find practitioners by area of expertise and location. Then read on to learn the different meanings of arbitration, mediation, and facilitation.

## Nose Out Dog-Friendly Parks

Whether it's a pocket-size Chihuahua or a massive Great Dane, your dog needs exercise. After you tire of the same old walk around the block, look for a nearby puppy paradise at **Dogpark.com**. Pick a state to get locations, schedules, and commentary on neighborhood hound haunts, or contribute your own listings. Your pet will get exercise, as well as a chance to socialize with other dogs and run off-leash safely.

## Mail Overseas With Ease

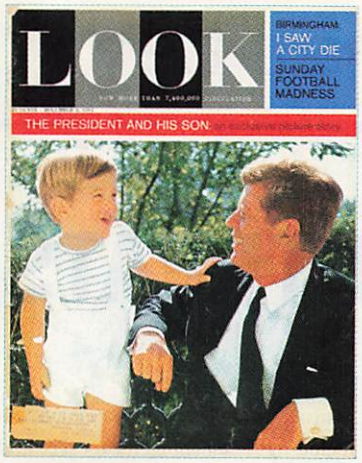
Sending a letter across the country is easy enough, but dispatching mail to overseas destinations is a little tougher. **PostInfo [postinfo.net/links]** comes in handy when you need to send mail to points around the globe. Here, find links to the official sites of postal services for most major countries, as well as Postal Code search tools and postage-rate calculators. PostInfo also features headlines about rate increases, special deals, and other postage-related news. Newman would love this one.

## Detect BS

So much of what we read—and perhaps write—these days is filled with jargon, doublespeak, and meaningless hype. Next time you write a quarterly report or a memo to the executive vice president, try running it through the half-serious, half-comical **Street Tech Buzzword Saturation Detector [streettech.com/bs]** to find out its Buzzword Saturation (BS, that is) rating. Created by Gareth Branwyn, editor of *Wired* magazine's popular Jargon Watch, the Detector doesn't pull any punches. Paste in your text, or type in a URL, and see if your copy "smells like roses" (no BS) or if you're "up to your eyeballs" in buzzword-laden phrases.

SEND US NEWS OF YOUR USEFUL FIND! WRITE TO IUS@ZIFFDAVIS.COM

PLANT GUY: ERIK DREYER/GETTYONE; DOG: MARCIE JAN BRONSTEIN/NONSTOCK; STAMP: COURTESY OF CHAMPION STAMP CO., INC.




## Find Collectible Magazines

Did Fido chew up your prized September '98 copy of *Yahoo! Internet Life*? Find those rare (or not so rare) old magazines you're yearning for with the **Back Issue Finder [backissuefinder.com]**. Even if you've scoured used-book stores and eBay, you'll find thousands of listings here for magazines as well as postcards, newspapers, and other ephemera. Whether you're looking for the *Scottish Literary Journal* from 1991 or the *Ladies' Home Companion* from 1891, chances are good that it's here.

## Locate Cozy Digs

Intimate inns and bed-and-breakfasts make for a more romantic vacation than staying at a sterile chain hotel. Look for comfy lodgings at **BedandBreakfast.com** by clicking the map or using a locale or keyword search to find B&Bs and inns all over the world. You'll get contact and pricing information, photos, and details on amenities. Some of the featured inns also let you make your reservations online and buy gift certificates.

## Get Gaming Tips

You've been shoving Lara Croft around for months, but she's still no closer to her ultimate goal. Don't be ashamed—everyone needs a hint now and then. Find the tip you need to get unstuck with a search at **CheatingPlanet [cheatingplanet.com]**. Here you'll find cheat codes, secrets, and game guides (strategies and complete walk-throughs) for both computer and console games. Search by platform, then by game title to find knowledge on everything from Legend of Zelda to the Sims.

## Boost Your Word Skills

The weird and wonderful English language is full of surprises. Discover a few by taking some of the tests at **Dillon's Online Vocabulary [people.ne.mediaone.net/tomdillon]**. More than 30 fun tests plumb the depths of your knowledge, and there are quizzes for official Scrabble words as well as foreign words that have made it into English. You'll also find links to other vocabulary and grammar sites here. What's a usufruct, you ask? Why, don't be pavid; take a quiz and find out.

BED-AND-BREAKFAST IMAGE: COURTESY OF BYRN-ROBERTS INN, MURFREESBORO, TENN.; FOOTBALL: STEVE COLE/GETTYONE

# ...and downloads

### GO NUTS ON SPORTS STATS

If you're a gridiron junkie, you'll find the ultimate high in **NFL Ferret 2001 [jimsquest.com/ferret.htm]**. The program's more than 50 handicapping and statistical screens let you create theoretical matchups, compare a team with itself over various slices of the season to figure out why it's flourishing or tanking, or run the numbers on real vs. artificial turf. Just about every statistical permutation is available, and Sundays and Tuesdays bring a downloadable file jammed with last weekend's facts and figures. Add it to the mix, and you'll be a ringer for next weekend's betting pool. *$29.95.*

### TALK TO YOUR COMPUTER

Lonely much? You can turn your PC into a fairly helpful friend by installing **Ultra Hal Assistant [zabaware.com/assistant]**, a fun, speech-enabled buddy that will respond to your idle conversation as well as add information to your contact database or help you navigate the Net. In the free version, you have to type, but in the advanced version, you can simply chat into a microphone. Say "What's the forecast?" and Hal will open your browser and take you to your favorite weather site. Say a phone number, and Hal will add it to your address book. Tell Hal you have a job interview Thursday at noon, and he'll remind you. *Basic version, free; advanced version, $34.95.*

### BUILD A PERSONAL NEWS WIRE

There are plenty of ways to keep track of headlines and stock quotes online. What's harder is making the news follow you when you walk away from your computer. **Infogate [infogate.com]** has sources such as *The New York Times*, AccuWeather, CNN, CBS MarketWatch, Reuters, CBS SportsLine, and E! Online. Do a little configuring, and you can have the service send customized news to your e-mail, pager, or cell phone. *Free.*

**DON WILLMOTT**

COMPARING THE TRIED-AND-TRUE WITH THE NET-AND-NEW BY DAVID SHEFF

# BUYING HALLOWEEN TREATS

## OLD WAY

1 Preparing for the yearly parade of pint-size ghouls, we went to the local supermarket, where enormous 4-pound bags of candy were on sale for $8.99. We bought one.

2 Dentists must love Halloween, or at least the increase in business that occurs afterward. We decided to offer alternatives alongside the candy: tiny toys such as fake noses and eyeballs. At a toy store, a bag of the plastic goodies was selling for $7.99. So we bought those, too.

TIME ELAPSED 30 minutes shopping

COMMENTS One year we tried mini boxes of raisins, but most kids refused them.

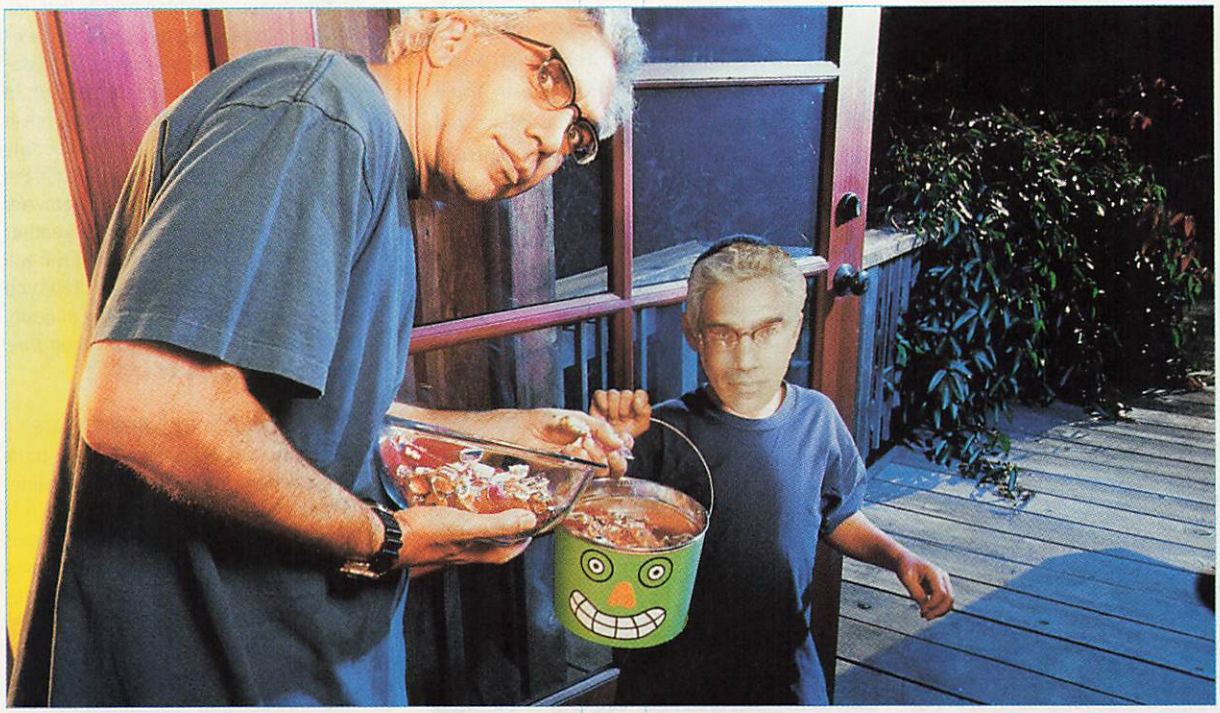
## NET WAY

1 For other ideas, I turned to the Web. A search led to a bunch of treats, including cocoa cobweb cupcakes and both pumpkin and "creepy" cookies, but we weren't sure if kids' parents would let them eat homemade baked goods.

2 Checked the online prices for candy and found **CandyWarehouse [store.yahoo.com/candywarehouse/halcanbul.html]**, where a 3-kilogram bag (more than 6 pounds) of Gummi Brains was $19.35 and 850 Eyes of Terror Gumballs could be had for $47.55. ("The pupils are especially delicious.") The site's minimum total order is $25, excluding shipping charges.

TIME ELAPSED 40 minutes

COMMENTS The online selection was wider, but the prices were much higher.



BART NAGEL

**WINNER: OLD WAY** You'll find lots of candy and cheap toys pretty much everywhere.

# PLANTING BULBS

## OLD WAY

1 The garden is mostly dormant now, but it's time to plant bulbs that will bloom in spring. Our local nursery has a good selection of bulbs appropriate to our climate and soil. We stocked up on narcissus, tulips, lilies, and hyacinths, leaving with dozens of bulbs as well as advice about planting them.

TIME ELAPSED 45 minutes shopping

COMMENTS A good local nursery, like a good local bookstore, is a treasure.

## NET WAY

1 Bulbs aplenty are available online. A friend loves a site called **Old House Gardens [oldhousegardens.com]**, which has wonderful samplers of heirloom bulbs. Click on Our Fall-Planted Bulbs for ample supplies of crocuses, daffodils, lilies, tulips, and lots more. Choose the best ones for your region by clicking the link to Bulbs by Zone. You can also select bulbs based on their planting date, color, and fragrance.

2 **Bloomingbulb.com** also has a zone map and a large assortment of traditional bulbs. **Cascade Valley Farms [www.cascadevalleyfarms.com]** has a great selection of bulbs, too. Check out the site's illustrated Planting Tips section for a concise and helpful guide.

TIME ELAPSED 1 hour

COMMENTS I prefer our local nursery, because it's fun to look at all the plants, but we supplemented what was available there with some spectacular bulbs bought over the Net.

**WINNER: TIE** **The combination of bulbs from nearby and the Net should create spectacular color next spring.**

# WIRING MONEY

## OLD WAY

1 Needed to wire $100 to a friend from abroad who was stranded in Boston. On a weekday I could have contacted my bank, but that wasn't going to work on a Sunday morning.

2 Called Western Union and was told that the company could do the transfer. If I went to a Western Union office with cash, the fee would be $15. To use a credit card, it would cost $25. Fees may vary, depending on where the money is being sent.

TIME ELAPSED 16 minutes

COMMENTS Conveniently, many Western Union offices are open seven days a week.

## NET WAY

1 Tried **Western Union [westernunion.com]**, where I accomplished the transfer, using a credit card, for a fee of $15.

2 My friend collected the money in downtown Boston that afternoon and called to thank me.

TIME ELAPSED 2 minutes

COMMENTS It couldn't have been easier.

**WINNER: NET WAY** **When we were down to the wire, the Net didn't let us down.**

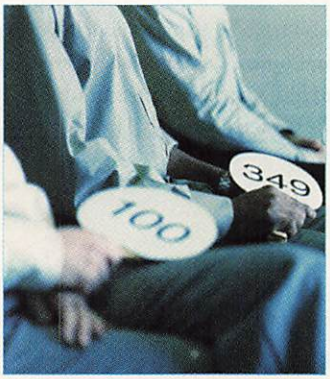
# Click! ▸ shopping

ADVICE FOR THE MALL-WEARY SURFER EDITED BY MEGAN GERRITY

## The browser

### Sam's Bargain Basement

WHO'S MADE A BIGGER BANG IN E-COMMERCE THAN EVEN THE MIGHTY AMAZON.COM? ASK UNCLE SAM




Government surplus sales and seized-item auctions have long been the stuff of urban legend. But online, they're the stuff of e-commerce success stories. Last year, the Fed's 164 *.gov* storefronts generated $3.6 billion in sales—roughly $800 million more than Amazon.com.

Other than their fabulous track record, the most surprising aspect of government stores is their breadth of inventory. You might expect cars, planes, and foreclosed properties, but how about rare mustangs and burros, Indian peace pipes, or a convenience store? Our eclectic set of four federal shopping sites just scratches the surface, but it might inspire you to dig a little deeper into Uncle Sam's quirky warehouses. If you run into any lost arks, let us know. **AMANDA MYERS**

| | YOU'LL FIND... | HOW TO BUY | OVERALL |
|---|---|---|---|
| GSA Auctions **[gsaauctions.gov]** | Cars, aircraft carriers, cell phones, office equipment, and more—including some "fixer-uppers," so read the details. | Online bidding, with most forms of payment accepted. | Competitive prices (we found a $10 Xerox copier and $5 fax machine) and a helpful Regional Sales option. |
| Wild Horse & Burro Internet Adoption **[adoptahorse.blm.gov]** | Horses (including pintos and wild mustangs) and burros. Most horses are $125–$250, but they can cost in the thousands. | If you meet the Bureau of Land Management's rigorous standards, you can adopt (meaning, buy) a steed, either online or in person. | Excellent navigation. Search pictures to find the perfect mount to fulfill your cowboy or cowgirl dreams. |
| Bid4Assets **[bid4assets.com]** | A range of deals, from motorcycles for $3,500 to convenience stores for $355,000. | Online bidding, with payment methods indicated by seller at auction's end. | Channel categories (Personal Property, Bankruptcy Claims, and more) ease your search. |
| Pipestone National Monument **[authenticpipestone.com]** | Beautiful and unique Native American peace pipes, as well as jewelry, clothing, and pipe bags. | Order online or via the toll-free number. (We experienced some technical glitches when we tried to buy online.) | Strikes the balance between honoring vanishing art forms and selling wares. |

## Sold!

Never mind a signed guitar or backstage pass. There's no better souvenir than a rock legend's house. The Minnesota childhood home of Bob Dylan was auctioned on **eBay [ebay.com]** for $94,600. The seller described the three-bedroom duplex, which features leaded-glass windows and a view of Lake Superior, as "a must-have for the ultimate die-hard Dylan fan."

## I can buy what...?

Can't find the perfect place to move? Look beyond land masses. **ResidenSea [www.residensea.com]** offers 110 apartments and 34 travel itineraries aboard *The World*, its residential ocean liner. The sea-dwelling homes, starting at $2 million, include spa privileges, on-call chefs, and a 24-hour concierge. Think of it: You'd never have to mow a lawn again.

BIDDERS AT AUCTION: BRUCE T. BROWN/GETTYONE

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CRUSADING FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE, AND THE INTERNET WAY BY LAURA FISHER KAISER

## DEBT BE NOT PROUD

**Q** Some of my friends and I have fallen victim to a "credit repair" site called Superfreesites that asks for such personal info as credit card and account numbers and e-mail addresses. You fill out a form and then never hear back. There is no contact information on the site. This guy is sending me about 10 spams a day. I have contacted his ISPs (the real ones, not the ones in his forged return address), but he keeps changing them. I think he should be punished by the law. Please don't print my full name.

**"HARAIN"**
Isabela, Puerto Rico

**A** When we first looked at Superfreesites, we were appalled by its chutzpah: It was nothing but empty data fields into which you're supposed to type your personal information. We checked back a couple of weeks later, and the site had vanished. That's typical for such scams, which prey on desperate debtors by bombarding them with unsolicited e-mail messages that say things like, "Bad credit? No problem!" In many cases, these sites are just ways that dishonest people can collect information in order to access bank accounts and open lines of credit.

"Many so-called credit repair organizations offer nothing more than what consumers could do by themselves, in terms of getting their credit rating and help with debts," says Gwen Reichbach, director of **NICE: National Institute for Consumer Education [nice.emich.edu]**. "You don't give personal info to see if you qualify for credit repair."

Another organization, **NFCC: National Foundation for Credit Counseling [nfcc.org]**, can refer you and your friends to a legitimate credit counseling center, which can advise you of your rights and help you work out a budget and a payment plan with creditors. To report a fraudulent credit repair company, contact your local consumer affairs office or your state Attorney General.

**'Many so-called credit repair organizations offer nothing more than what consumers could do by themselves'**
GWEN REICHBACH, NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR CONSUMER EDUCATION

## NURSING A GRUDGE

**Q** Last year I joined the local chapter of the Better Business Bureau in order to add legitimacy to my Web site and business. I was charged $445 for one year. Several months after joining I went to its site, **Better Business Bureau Serving Oregon and Western Washington [www.orwwabbb.com]**, and discovered that some of the information on my business, including the Web address, was wrong. I called the BBB and it fixed some of the information, but it could never get my Web address right. I feel this organization has not provided me or my company with the service and benefits it promised. I have asked for a refund of my membership dues, which a representative agreed to over the phone but never credited to my account. No one is returning my calls or e-mail messages.

**GENE W. ATTERBERRY**
**ATTERBERRY NURSERY INC.**
Boring, Oregon

**A** When we clicked on the BBB's link to your site, we were disconcerted to receive the message, "Whoops! We can't find your page!" So we e-mailed Angela McCrea, the Better Business Bureau of Oregon/Western Washington's public relations manager. She referred us to Rochelle Hayden, who explained that the information about your company came from the horse's mouth—yours—and confirmed that your online listing has been plagued by problems.

"I talked to him and we went through his URL letter by letter—it was more than 50 characters," she says. "But I couldn't get that to come up either." It wasn't until the E-venger sent her the address you sent us that she could get it to work, and she subsequently fixed the link.

Hayden understands your frustration but feels that refunding your annual fee (which she denies having agreed to do) is incommensurate with the situation. But since the URL matter has taken so long to resolve, the BBB is offering you a free red, bold listing (a $150 value) in its annual consumer guide. Trouble is, you have to have a membership, and you recently canceled yours.

We take it you're not interested in reinstating at this point, so the E-venger has persuaded the BBB to send you a check for $150 instead. That should liven things up in Boring.

---

**Ask E-venger for help at www.yil.com/evenger, or by e-mail: evenger@ziffdavis.com.**

## SMALL-SHOP SMARTS

**Before you buy from a retail Web site with no known track record, get the business license number and the city in which it's registered. Have the product shipped COD as insurance that you receive your order.**

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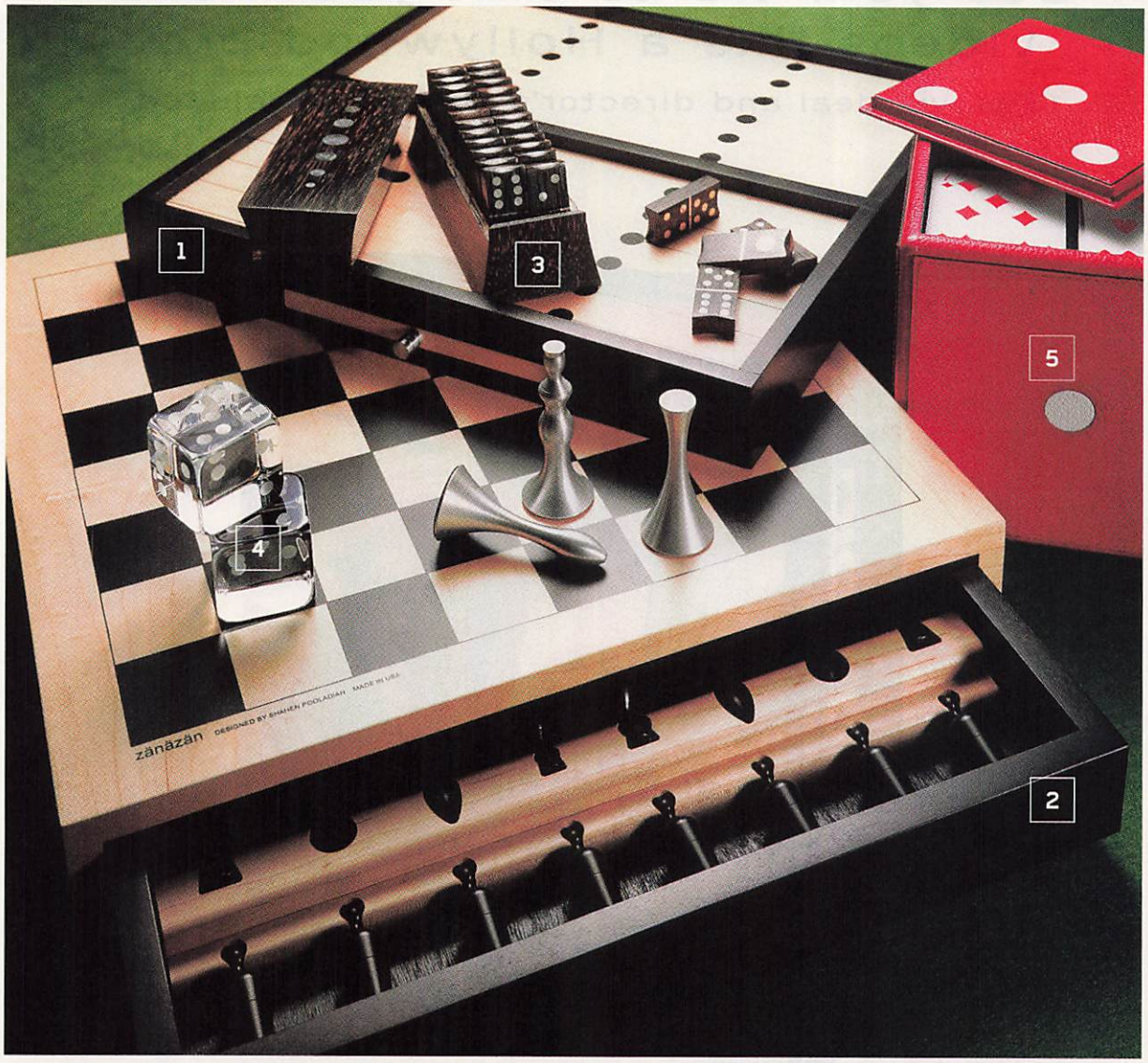


# Winner Takes All

So you hit pay dirt at the online casino? Use your winnings to stock your home game room. Challenge your opponents to a match of wits over the maple-wood BACKGAMMON BOARD ‹1›, $165, or CHESS SET ‹2›, $375, both from Zanazan at **Red Envelope [redenvelope.com]**. After your inevitable triumph, store the sleek game pieces in the built-in sliding trays until your next victim comes along. Perhaps your adversaries would prefer a more genteel game of DOMINOES ‹3›. What better way to play than with the elegant palm wood and sterling set, $475, from John Hardy at **Neiman Marcus [neimanmarcus.com]**. When high rollers come calling, mesmerize them with CRYSTAL DICE ‹4›, $175 per die, from **Baccarat [www.baccarat.fr]**, the perfect complement to your LEATHER POKER GAME SET ‹5›, $350, from **Vivre [vivre.com]**.

**MEAGHAN O'NEILL**

PHOTOGRAPH BY JAY ZUKERKORN

STYLED BY VICKY McGARRY

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Top to bottom: Nautica Jeans (nauticajeans.com); Polo Jeans (polo.com); Levi's Jeans (levi.com); Tommy Jeans (tommy.com); Levi's (see above); Gap Jeans (gap.com)

# The Human Jean Project

**Q » I'm the jeans-and-T-shirt type, so please give me a hand in making my life even simpler: What's the bottom line on virtual denim?**

**A »** I'm all for dressing down with cool jeans (clean, no crease—got it?), especially when they're paired with a sport coat or a crisp colored T. **Gap.com** carries its tried-and-true selection of styles and rinses. Or visit **Levi.com** for its classic collection. If those sites seem too predictable, check out **Nautica Jeans Company: Fit to Be Guide (nauticajeans.com/fit/sub_fit_index.html)**, a quiz to help you assess your lifestyle and body type. Who knew that figuring out whether your body resembles a "Geo Metro" or "a wedge of cheddar" could lead to perfect pants?

**Q » Along with tightening our belts around the office, we've been buttoning up our collars and pulling ties out of the closet. I don't mind wearing one, but what's the best way to knot it?**

**A »** Dressing up for work is back, so whether you're wearing khakis or a suit, a tie is a simple way to make your look more gentlemanly. If it's been so long that you need a refresher in the basics, **Learn2 Tie a Necktie (learn2.com/05/0537/0537.asp)** has a hands-on session so detailed it starts with "Flip the collar up" and ends with "Look at the tie in the mirror." When you've mastered that lesson (or need to attend a corporate dinner), head to **RobertTalbott.com** for diagrams of traditional knots and bow ties, plus tips on proper care.

**Q » I recently inherited a few pairs of cuff links from my grandfather. Are they still in style?**

**A »** The answer to your question is a resounding yes; cuff links are always in vogue. Like ties, they're a way to personalize your look. To add more to your budding collection, stop by **Tateossian London (www.tateossian.com)**.

Warren Christopher has the answers. Write to askwarren@ziffdavis.com.

PHOTOGRAPH BY DAVIS+STARR

Redefine

The

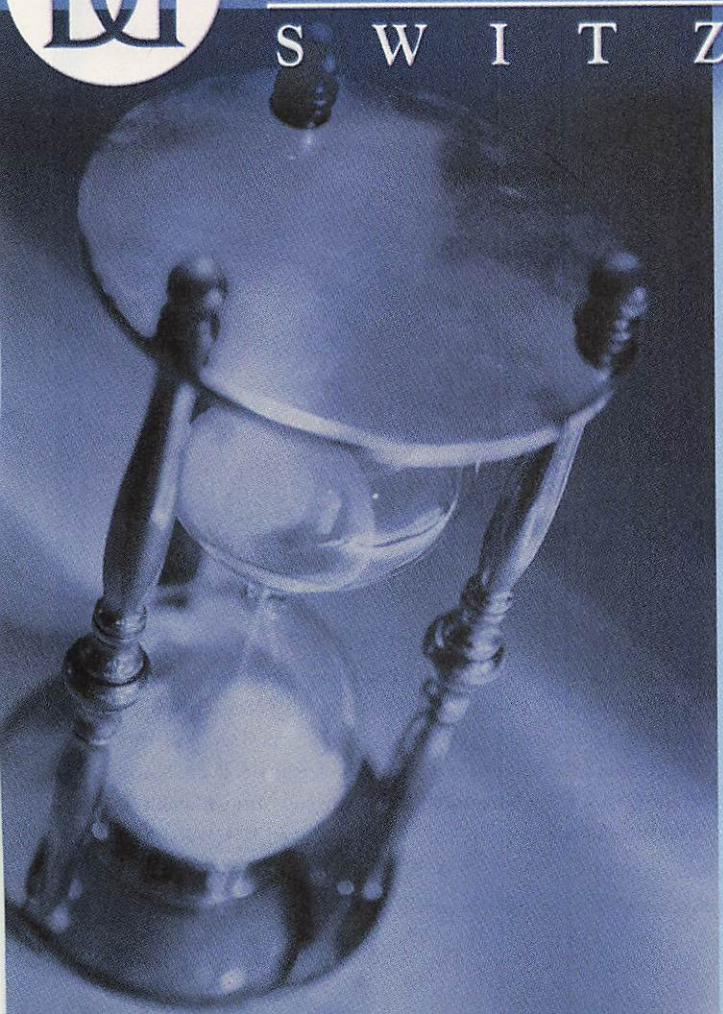
Measure

of

Time

# DANIEL MINK

## SWITZERLAND



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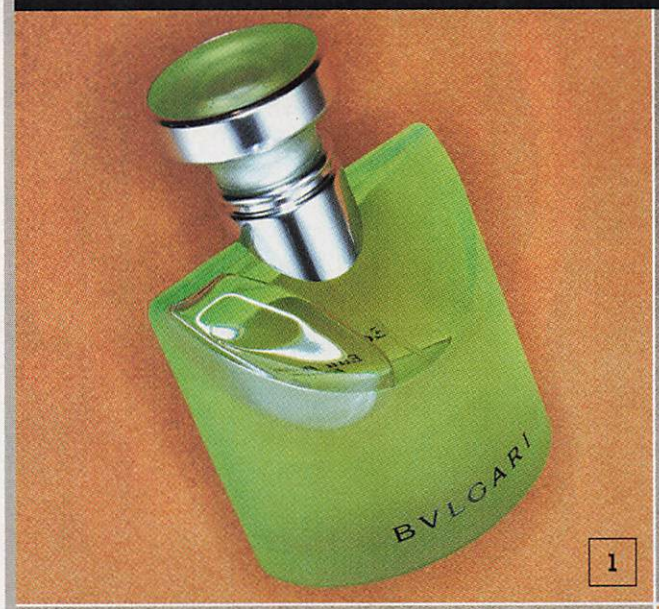


1

2

3

4

# It's All in the Details

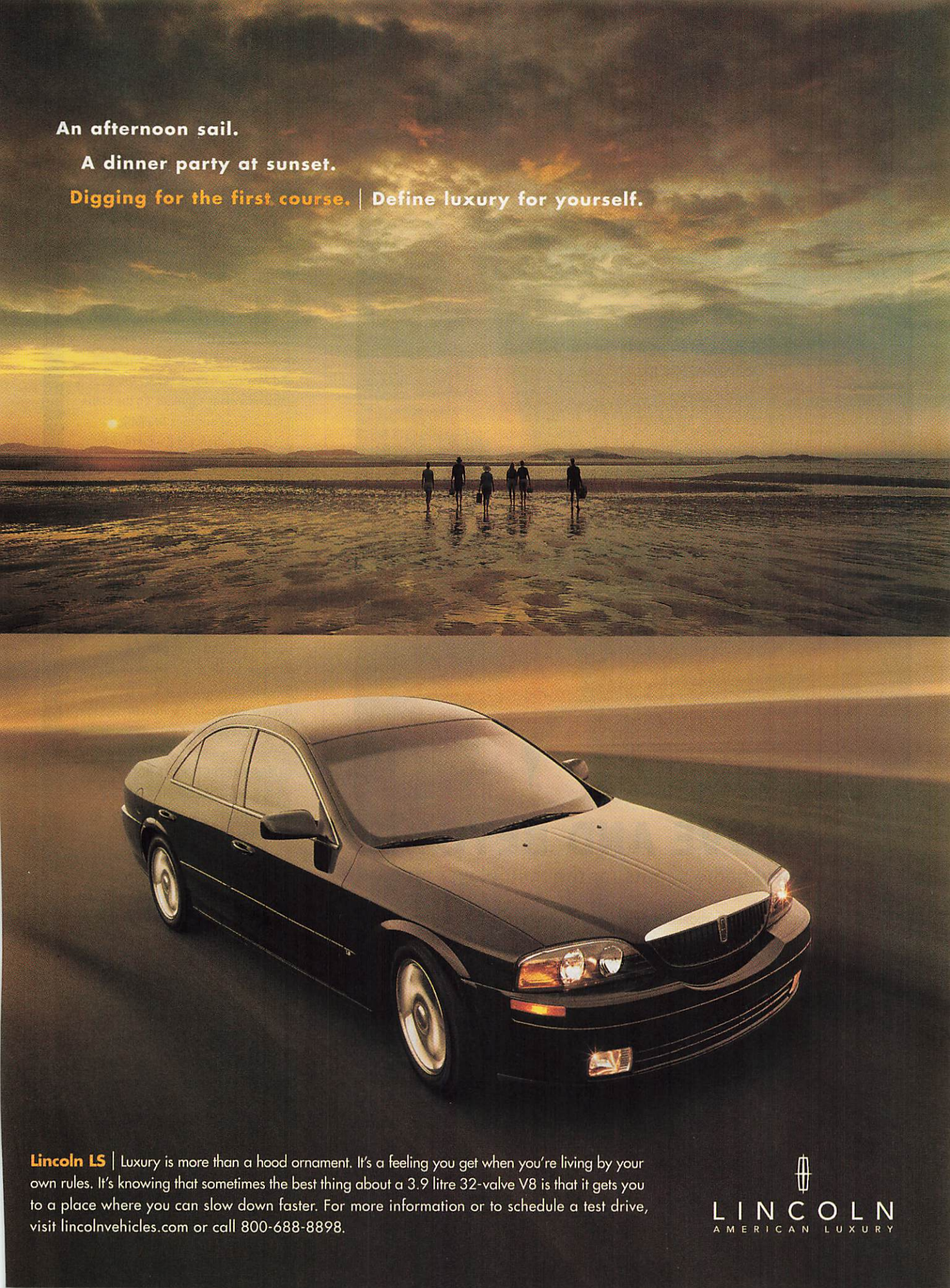
**1 » GOOD SCENTS**
You've got the look down to a science—now finish it off with the cool, spicy tones of Eau Parfumée Extrême, $120 for 3.4 ounces, from Bulgari at **Sephora.com**.

**2 » THE BELTWAY**
That power suit and tie may be making a splashy comeback after all—but the crocodile belt was always in vogue. From Torino, $325, at **Saks Fifth Avenue (saksfifthavenue.com)**.

**3 » PAY PAL**
Because you can't buy a martini with equity, stash your Amex and other liquid assets in this leather case, $80, or the bifold version, $98, from **Salvatore Ferragamo (ferragamo.com)**.

**4 » WRITE STUFF**
Digital age? Sure, but someone has to sign that occasional paper check. Your scrawl says it all with the Meisterstück Solitaire Nikolai I pen, $695, from **Montblanc (montblanc.com)**. **MEAGHAN O'NEILL**

PHOTOGRAPHS BY DAVIES+STARR

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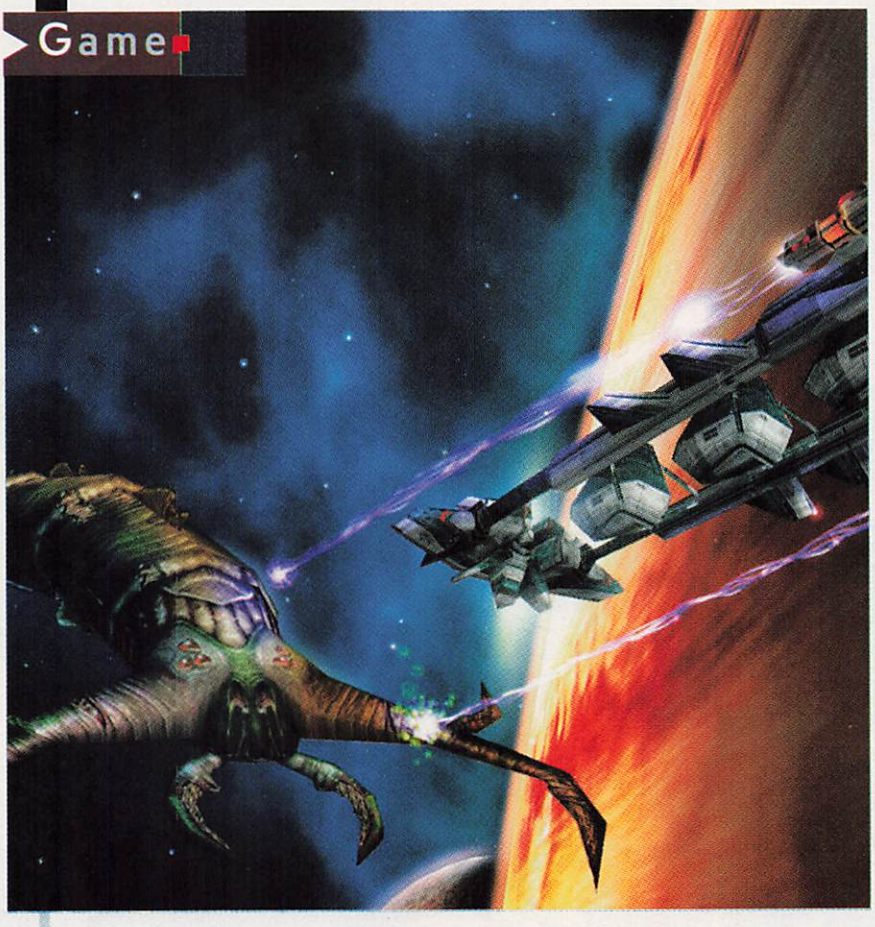
# Content

what to watch, hear, read, and play online

Game



## ABOVE AND BEYOND

### A new game shoots for the multiplayer moon

CAN EARTH AND BEYOND PROPEL WESTWOOD STUDIOS, KNOWN FOR ITS COMMAND & CONQUER strategy series, into the competitive, massively multiplayer online arena? From what we've seen thus far, the answer's going to be yes. Here, players climb into a ship and set out across a vast universe populated by tens of thousands of other players. Exactly how you advance your skills as an explorer, tradesman, or warrior is entirely up to you—be it through heated combat, diplomatic alliances, or cutthroat mercenary work. The graphics, of course, are stunning, with asteroid belts, black holes, and 3-D planets to fly around.

While Earth and Beyond won't be available until the end of the year (at a monthly price that's TBA), its first public beta test is giving about 10,000 players a free ride into the "beyond." **[www.westwood.com]** **MARC SALTZMAN**

CHECK IT OUT
GO TO YIL.COM/CRITICS FOR MORE INFO

## Game Shorts

**WARBIRDS III** Third time's the charm for one of the Net's oldest online combat flight simulators. In the latest version of the renowned WW II massively multiplayer sim, Windows and Macintosh users can fly the unfriendly skies together, on the same mission. Free add-ons available for download enhance the experience. **M.S.** ★★★½ **[www.warbirdsIII.com] (iEntertainment, $9.95/month)**

**OUTBACK CHALLENGE** *Survivor 3* may be just around the corner, but you can relive the Australian adventure by playing Outback Challenge. Use the arrow keys to guide characters around the island, shooting critters with a boomerang and aiming to complete all seven levels as quickly as possible. Silly but entertaining. **M.S.** ★★★ **[hollywood.com/TV/features/FEATURE/469676] (free)**

**GUESS THE DICTATOR AND/OR TELEVISION SIT-COM CHARACTER** Got way too much time on your hands? Try Guess the Dictator, where the rules are simple: Pretend to be a dictator or TV sitcom character (Castro or Chandler?), and the program tries to guess who you are by asking yes-or-no questions. **M.S.** ★★½ **[smalltime.com/dictator] (free)**

## Book Shorts

**MY LIFE IN SPECULATIVE FICTION** Squeezing a gay coming-of-age story with sci-fi tinges into 50 pages is a mighty undertaking, but award-winning fantasy author Richard Bowes pulls it off. This semiautobiographical

**MON** **WATCH WITH WANDA:** 6 P.M. DISH ON TV'S NEW SEASON **[EONLINE.COM/GOSSIP/WANDA]**

**TUE** **ARTISTS' EXCHANGE CHAT:** 9 P.M. **[ARTISTEXCHANGE.ABOUT.COM/MPCHAT.HTM]**

**WED** **MIDNIGHT VOICEJAIL:** 9 P.M. A "RETRO REALITY RADIO SOAP OPERA" **[GEOCITIES.COM/VOICEJAIL]**

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## Books

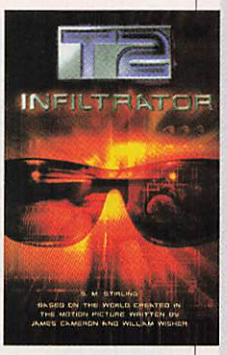
# THIRD TIME'S A BUST

### The *Terminator* series keeps on...terminating

**ANYONE WHO LOVED THE ARNOLD SCHWARZENEG-**ger Terminator movies, especially *Terminator 2: Judgment Day*, will be excited to hear of a new chapter in the series. Alas, though it introduces some twists to the Terminator scenario, S.M. Stirling's *T2: Infiltrator* ultimately falls flatter than the T-800 at the end of the first movie.

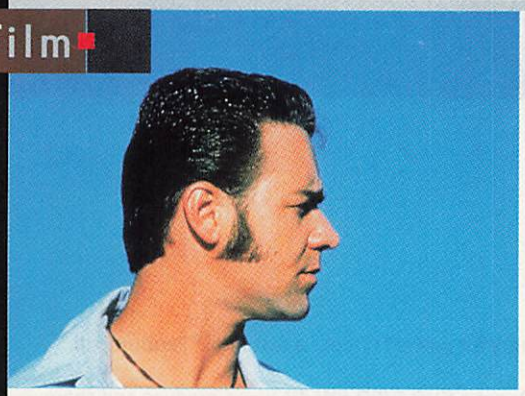
The good news is that Skynet was not destroyed in that explosion near the end of *T2*. Bits of the automated defense system survived to fight humanity again, in the form of John Connor and his underground rebels. And Skynet has decided again to send a terminator into the past (our present) to destroy John as a boy.

Unlike the first two terminators, this machine—an I-950 Infiltrator—takes the form of a beautiful female, Serena Burns. She is capable of cloning herself or producing multiple Schwarzenegger-like T-800's, which she can then order around through her internal computer.




Despite the presence of several of these characters resembling Schwarzenegger, the plot couldn't be more pedestrian, nor the action more tired. That liquid-metal cyborg flows much more smoothly than Stirling's prose does. Add the fact that Serena doesn't come close to mounting the kind of devastating threat of the sequel's T-1000, and you've got a fun read for the hard-core that's nevertheless a clunker. If at first the title *T2* seems modest (versus *T3*), in light of its accomplishments the book might have been *T1½*. HarperEntertainment hardcover ($25); **PerfectBound [perfectbound.com]** e-book ($19.95) **PAMELA H.N. HUNT**

## Film



# GOING LEGIT

### With pirates at their heels, Hollywood announces a video-on-demand project

**THE ENTERTAINMENT WORLD WAS** shaken—okay, mildly stirred—by the news that as of June there were reportedly more than a million pirated copies of digital films in circulation on the Web. But while a million hardly seems a big deal—compare that to the 2.8 billion music files traded on Napster in February—Hollywood is worried enough about piracy that five of the major studios recently announced joint plans to make rental copies of feature films available for download. And who can blame them, after taking a look at the current legit alternative? Case in point: *Heaven's Burning*, one of the more popular online pay-per-view titles available from **CinemaNow [cinemanow.com]**, in which Russell Crowe (above) plays a getaway driver who falls in love with his hostage (Youki Kudoh). The blood flows freely in what was apparently meant to be satire but wound up as Z-grade trash. Of course, it is possible that the films the studios deliver won't be much better; these are, after all, the people who gave us *Original Sin*. But here's hoping for a brighter future for legal movie downloads on the Web. **BILGE EBIRI**

*HEAVEN'S BURNING:* © LIONS GATE FILMS 2001

tale follows a confused college kid in the early '60s as he grapples with issues of family, politics, and sexuality. Salvation comes through imagination—at first, in creating an alter ego (a hepcat adventurer named Bobby Shafto), and later, in becoming a writer. Though honest, the prose suffers from periodic overdoses of angst, but—even if it is more *My So-Called Life* than *Brave New World*—as Bowes has divined, discovery can occur on all types of frontiers. **N.M.** ★★★ **[ipublish.com]**

**FOOLS ALL OF US**
The eccentricities of Charleston quietly shape the odd and touching events that unfold in these short stories. While recounting the surreal adventures of their friends and acquaintances, Jonathan Sanchez's narrators delight in sharing their knowledge with readers. The details of local life are entertaining and informative. In fact, this tour of Charleston may help you better understand your own city. You'll certainly wish you could imagine yours as beautifully. **L.A.** ★★★★ **[greatunpublished.com] ($7.99, e-book; $15, paperback)**

## Film Short

**ROCK 'N' ROLL DAD** Based on the real-life tension between Beach Boy Brian Wilson and his domineering dad, Murry, this show plays the frustrated rage of the alcoholic and abusive father for laughs. Twisted, yes, but the animation is terrific. Murry is wild-eyed with fury over Brian's success, so he starts his own bile-fueled songwriting career, wailing "I'm a genius, too, you know!" as he threatens people with his belt. Luckily, the opening credits offer the disclaimer that the directors "made it all up," so viewers can laugh it all off. **R.B.** ★★★ **[icebox.com]**

**THE CONTENT COMMITTEE:** LAURA AHN, RACHEL BOYNTON, NAN MOONEY

**THU** **MODS N ROCKERS:** THE CANADIAN SHOW TAKES ITS PUNK-SKA-MOD MIX ONLINE **[2KOOL4RADIO.COM]**

**FRI** **FRIDAY PLAY:** 5 P.M. NEW DRAMAS BY GREAT WRITERS **[WWW.BBC.CO.UK/RADIO4]**

**SUN** **BIG ROOM BRUNCH:** 9 A.M. LIVE ROCK: AFGHAN WHIGS TO THE WALLFLOWERS **[CD101.COM/BIGROOM/BIGROOM.ASP]**

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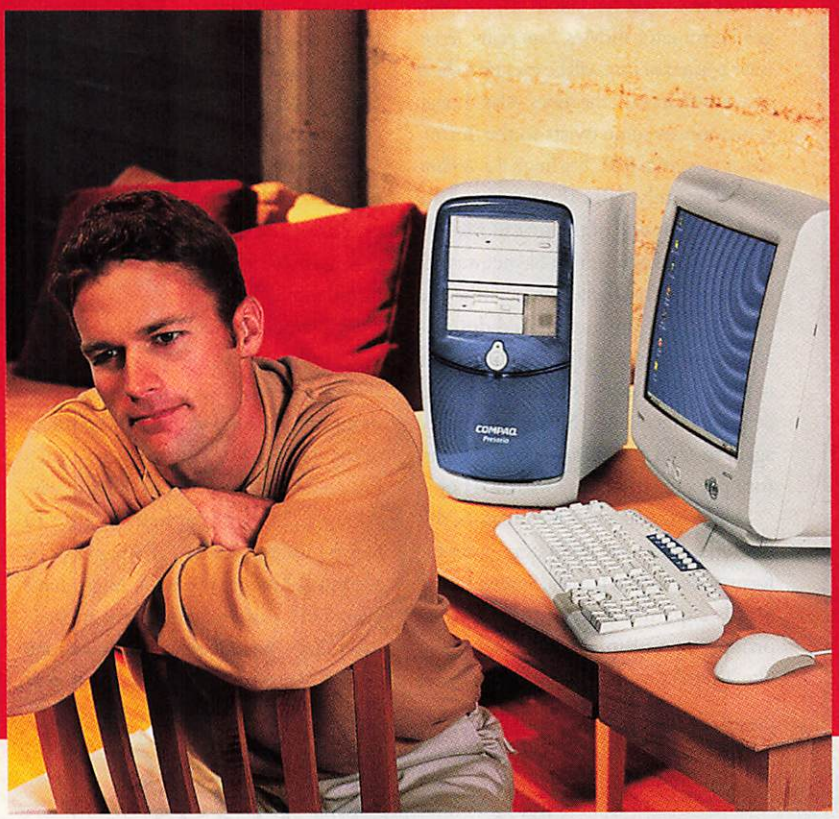


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XP Home Edition offer eligible on purchases of a Compaq Presario 1200T, 1700T, and 1800T with Windows Millennium Edition pre-installed. Offer valid from 09/01/01 through 01/31/02. Shipping and handling included. See www.compaq.com/winxpupgrade for rebate coupon. To qualify for this offer, you must be a legal U.S. resident 18 years of age or older. Promotion is void where prohibited or restricted by law. Compaq reserves the right to modify or withdraw this promotion at any time. [5]8X DVD-ROM drives read a minimum of 4463 Kbps and a maximum of 10820 Kbps. Microsoft® Windows® Millennium Edition installed. Compaq, the Compaq Logo, Presario, FutureBay, and Inspiration Technology are trademarks of Compaq Information Technologies Group, L.P. Intel, the Intel Inside Logo, Pentium, Celeron, and Intel SpeedStep are trademarks or registered trademarks of Intel Corporation or its subsidiaries in the U.S. and other countries. Microsoft, MS, and Windows are registered trademarks of Microsoft Corporation. Products and company names mentioned herein may be trademarks and/or registered trademarks of other companies. ©2001 Compaq Computer Corporation 9876/10/01

# cool tools

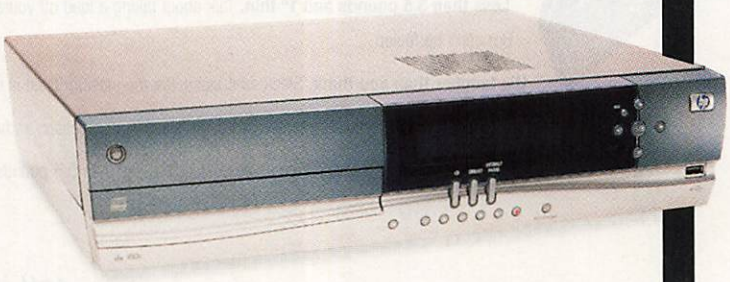
ultimate accessories for the digital life

## BOOT THE PIANO PLAYER

The **Yamaha Disklavier Mark III** is much more than a souped-up player piano. Inside you'll find enough wiring to set up a small recording studio. Besides performing both piano and instrumental ensemble music (downloadable via disk), the latest models also let you enjoy live-quality professional vocals accompanied by the piano. They can even record your work and help you create multitrack arrangements. Just learning? Use the built-in lessons, and spare your family the torture by using the silent mode with headphones. Oh, you can play CDs, too. **$31,295 and up [yamaha.com/pianos.htm]**

## FLAT LINES

Everyone would love to have a flat display, but the 15-inchers are too small and the 17-inchers are budget busters. Sony's aiming for a happy medium with the 16-inch **Sony SDM-M61**, which has a viewable image comparable to that of a 17-inch monitor. This sweet little number has both digital and analog inputs, speakers, and 70 degrees of tilt. It'll save you some energy bucks, too. **$850 [sony.com/displays]**



## GIGANTIC JUKEBOX

The **HP Digital Entertainment Center**'s 40GB hard drive has space for about 9,000 songs (750 CDs). Hook it up to your good speakers, to a TV or monitor, and to the Net. Then sit back and control your collection on the TV screen, make mixes that you can burn on the CD-RW drive, and download your current faves via USB to your MP3 player. Bored with your own music? Tune in a Net radio station. **$999 [hp.com]**

# cool tools

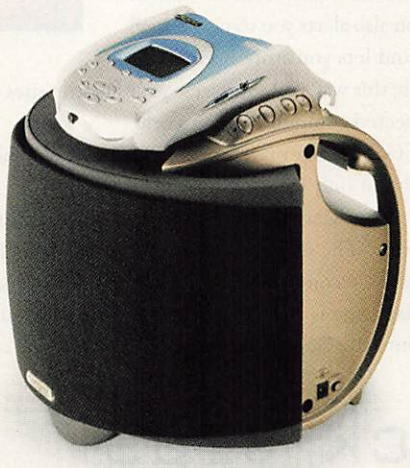
by don willmott

## BIJOU IN A BACKPACK

People on the plane will turn a curious shade of green as they watch you watch *Lawrence of Arabia* on the **Toshiba SD-P1500** DVD-video player. Designed for true movie buffs who don't have a DVD-ready notebook, the player has an 8-inch display and can play DVD-R, audio CD, CD-R, and CD-RW disks. Just make sure the flight is under three hours, or bring along the optional six-hour battery. **$1,500 [toshiba.com]**

## MASTER MIXOLOGIST

Shakes. Salsa. Baby food. Batter. With 40 preprogrammed recipes, the **Oster In2itive** blender knows what it's doing when the blade starts to spin, and with its Frank Gehry–like swoops and curves, it's a lot better-looking than your old frat-house blender. There's no need to worry if your margarita parties get a bit rowdy: The blender jar is made of Lexan, which is bulletproof. **$90 to $130 [oster.com]**



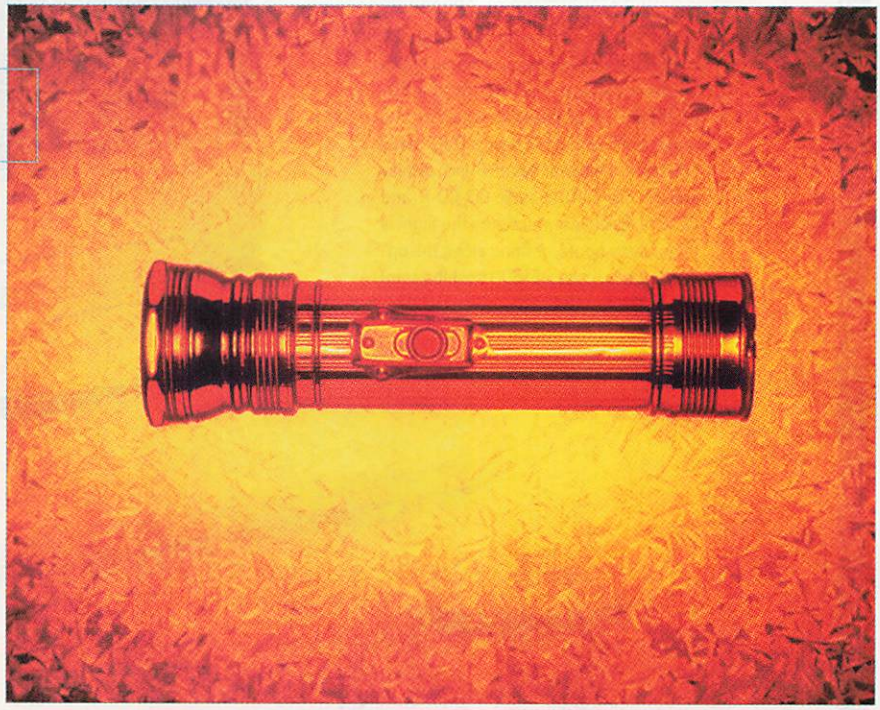
## TOURING SPEAKER

The big (very big) advantage of the Creative Nomad Jukebox MP3 player is its 6GB of storage space. One problem: You listen alone. The **Cambridge SoundWorks PlayDock PD200** lets you share all that sound. It's a large, high-quality speaker with a port for your Nomad. Inside are left and right main speakers, plus an extra bass speaker. The battery lasts 10 hours, and the device plugs into the wall to recharge. **$200 [hifi.com]**

IMAGE FROM *THE MATRIX*: JASIN BOLAND/ROADSHOW FILM LIMITED/WB

# find it

**TAKE YOUR FAVORITE SEARCH ENGINE WITH YOU, NO MATTER WHERE YOU SURF ONLINE**



CHUCK BRADLEY/NONSTOCK

They may take up valuable real estate on your computer screen, but they're just so darn handy. The latest Internet Explorer and Navigator add-ons from Yahoo! and Google integrate powerful searching features, and other utilities, right into your browser toolbar.

**Yahoo! Companion [companion.yahoo.com]** is the more versatile of the two toolbars. It lets you run general queries, as well as targeted searches on breaking news stories, stock quotes, online auctions, Yellow Pages information, and your Yahoo! Web-based e-mail address book. Yahoo! Companion also alerts you to new e-mail messages and lets you store bookmarks on the Web; this way, you can access your favorite sites from any Web-connected computer in the world.

Fans of Google may prefer the **Google Toolbar [toolbar.google.com]**, which not only lets you query the search engine, but also allows you to run searches confined to the pages within the site you're visiting. The Google Toolbar can also highlight search terms on pages, recommend related Web resources, and tell you how popular a site is with other surfers. And each query term you enter into the Google Toolbar is saved for future reference.

**ILOR [ilor.com]**, another powerful browser add-on, also runs on the Google search engine technology. But unlike its toolbar competitors, iLOR allows surfers to e-mail search results to friends or coworkers. It's worth a whirl if that's something you do often. At press time, the software was still in beta testing.

All of these browser add-ons work with Internet Explorer 5.*x* or later on systems running Windows 95, 98, 2000, Me, and NT. However, only Yahoo! Companion can integrate with Netscape Navigator 4.*x*–6.0 or Internet Explorer 4.*x*–6.0. **JEREMY CAPLAN**

# quick tips

### COOL COMPOSURE

If you use Yahoo! Mail and are tired of Outlook Express popping up every time you click an e-mail link, make Yahoo! Mail your default e-mail program. Sign in to **Yahoo! Mail [mail.yahoo.com]** and download the Yahoo! Mailto application. The tiny utility will automatically launch Yahoo! Mail whenever you click on an e-mail link or on your browser's Mail button. It'll also allow you to access Yahoo! Mail via the e-mail options in Microsoft Word and Excel. The app works only on PCs running IE 4.*x* or later.

### E-MAIL HYGIENE

After the umpteenth time an e-mail message has been forwarded, all the > symbols make it practically unreadable. If you're planning on forwarding the message, tidy it up with **eCleaner [members.tripod.com/schin26]**, a free PC-only utility that removes > symbols and fixes word wraps and unwanted headers.

### RADIO FREE WEB

On your way to the daily grind in the A.M., you catch the tail end of an interview with your favorite celebrity/sports hero/book author. What nugget of life-altering info did you miss? Find out at **SpeechBot [speechbot.research.compaq.com]**, a useful search engine that indexes more than 10,000 hours of radio content daily.

**ARE YOU LOOKING TO PURCHASE A PDA?**
**DON'T SPEND A CENT BEFORE YOU READ OUR HANDHELD CHEAT SHEET**

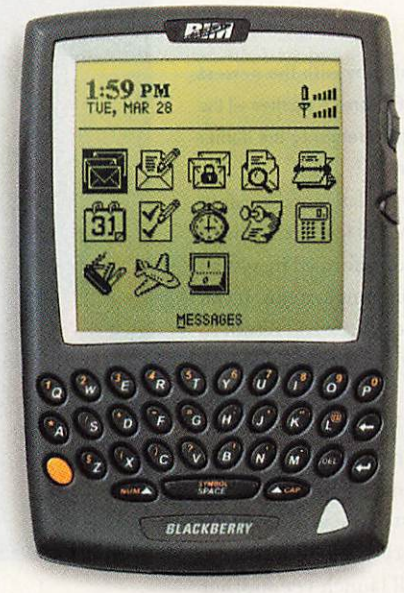
## .01 best of breed?

You're convinced that purchasing a handheld device will help you keep your life in order. But which one is best suited to you? If you're looking for something that will simply store phone numbers, to-do lists, and calendar info, get a bare-bones PDA; we recommend the Palm m105, which costs just under $200.

If you're looking for a PDA that can handle such things as wireless e-mail and Web surfing, you'll have to shell out anywhere from $350 to $550. Since there are so many models, with varying features, add-ons, and prices, you should visit **ZDNet: Handheld Supercenter [zdnet.com/special/filters/sc/pda/reviews]** or **CNET Computers.com [computers.com]** and compare PDAs before choosing anything. ZDNet provides interactive buying guides, and both sites offer detailed stats on popular handheld models, including the Palm Vx, Sony Clié, and Compaq iPAQ Pocket PC.

## .02 wireless gadgetry

A handful of handheld devices provide wireless e-mail and Web access. But few PDAs are truly designed for composing messages in a hurry. If you have lots of disposable income, by far the best choice for wirelessly sending and receiving e-mail is the RIM 957 handheld with Blackberry service at **RIM: Research in Motion [rim.net]**. This PDA boasts a tiny keyboard that makes entering messages (with your thumbs) a snap. The RIM 957 costs $499, and its wireless e-mail service runs an additional $40 per month.




**HAND-HOLDING** At Sony Style [sonystyle.com], get your mitts on the Clié PDA (far left); if it's a mobile e-mail solution you seek, grab hold of the RIM 957.

If you're willing to forgo such essential handheld features as calendars and to-do lists, check out the more affordable Motorola T-900, which resembles a beeper and can fit in your shirt pocket. It costs approximately $150–$200 (with a $50 rebate promised at **Motorola [motorola.com]** on purchases made by year's end), with its wireless e-mail service an additional $15 per month.

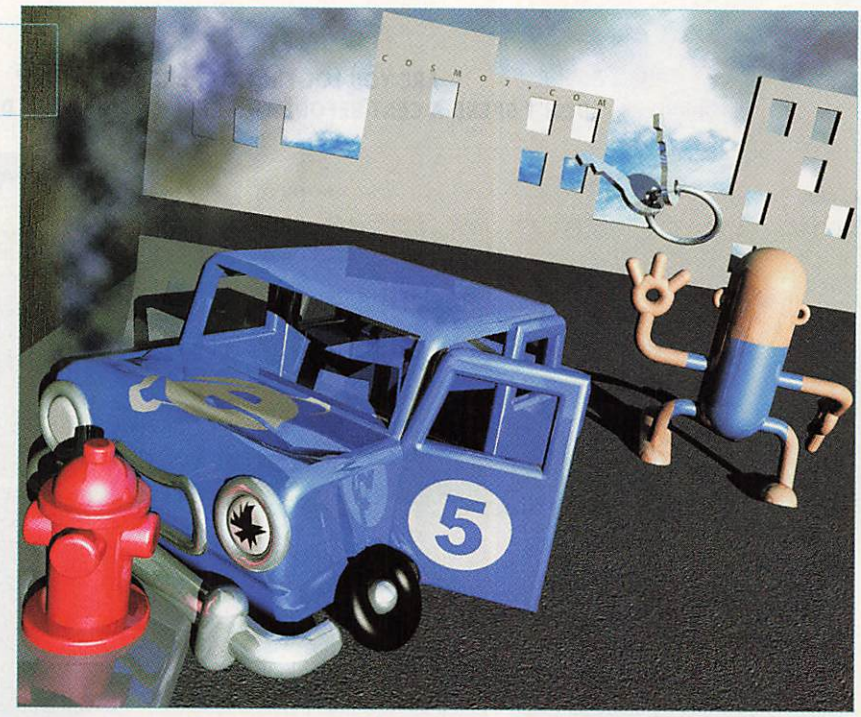
## .03 software supersites

Before you settle on a handheld, you want to be sure there's software available for it that can add functionality, as well as a few addictive games. Start your search at **Handango [handango.com]**, where you can rummage through thousands of PDA programs, including free and shareware software for devices powered by Palm OS, RIM, and Microsoft Windows CE. The program **Aportis [aportis.com]**, for example, lets Palm users view full-size PC-generated documents and e-books, while **Documents To Go [dataviz.com]** allows you to edit spreadsheets and Word files on your PDA. You can even find software at Handango for turning your Palm into a PC remote control. Also see **PalmGear.com** and **Vindigo [vindigo.com]**, which provides electronic city guides for handheld devices.

**LOU DOLINAR**

# webuser surf guru

## REVERT TO A STABLER VERSION OF EXPLORER; FIX YOUR PC CLOCK




**Q» I'm really unhappy with the newest version of Internet Explorer. It crashes all the time. Is there a way to return to the earlier version I had on my PC?**

**A»** So much for the latest and greatest, eh? Personally, I've had few troubles with IE 5.5, but I've been informed that it can be rather buggy on some systems. If you want to set the clock back and return to IE 4, follow these instructions. First, go to Start/Settings/Control Panel. Double-click on Add/Remove Programs to launch the Add/Remove Programs Properties window. Find Microsoft Internet Explorer in the list of installed programs and click it. Then click the Add/Remove button. This will launch yet another window, in which you want to choose the option marked Restore the Previous Windows Configuration. Click OK. Nostalgic Netscape users can simply uninstall the browser from the Properties window within Add/Remove Programs. Before you do that, however, make sure to download the version of Netscape Navigator you'd like to reinstall on your system. You can find earlier versions of Navigator at **[home.netscape.com/download/archive.html]**.

**Q» I downloaded some software from the Net. Now my PC clock shows the wrong time when I boot up. What happened?**

**A»** One of two things may be happening: Either the battery used by your PC's Real Time Clock (RTC) is low on juice, or you have buggy software installed on your computer. Since the problem occurred after you downloaded software from the Net, I think it's safe to assume the latter. (And anyway, replacing the battery installed on the motherboard requires opening up your system, which may be more trouble than it's worth.) If bad software is the culprit, you may or may not be out of luck. Try uninstalling the software you downloaded from the Net by using Windows' Add/Remove utility (Start/Settings/Control Panel/Add/Remove Programs). Then reboot your computer. If that doesn't work, download **AtomTime 98 [atomtime.com]**, a free PC program that synchronizes your internal PC clock with an atomic clock in Boulder, Colorado. Of course, before trying any of the above, reset the time on your PC and see if it resolves the error. It's possible the problem is merely temporary.

**Q» Microsoft Word embeds links to e-mail addresses in my documents. How can I remove them?**

**A»** Go to Format/Autoformat. Click the Options button and then the Autoformat As You Type tab. Uncheck the box that reads "Internet and network paths with hyperlinks."

EDDIE BOWEN/WWW.COSMO7.COM

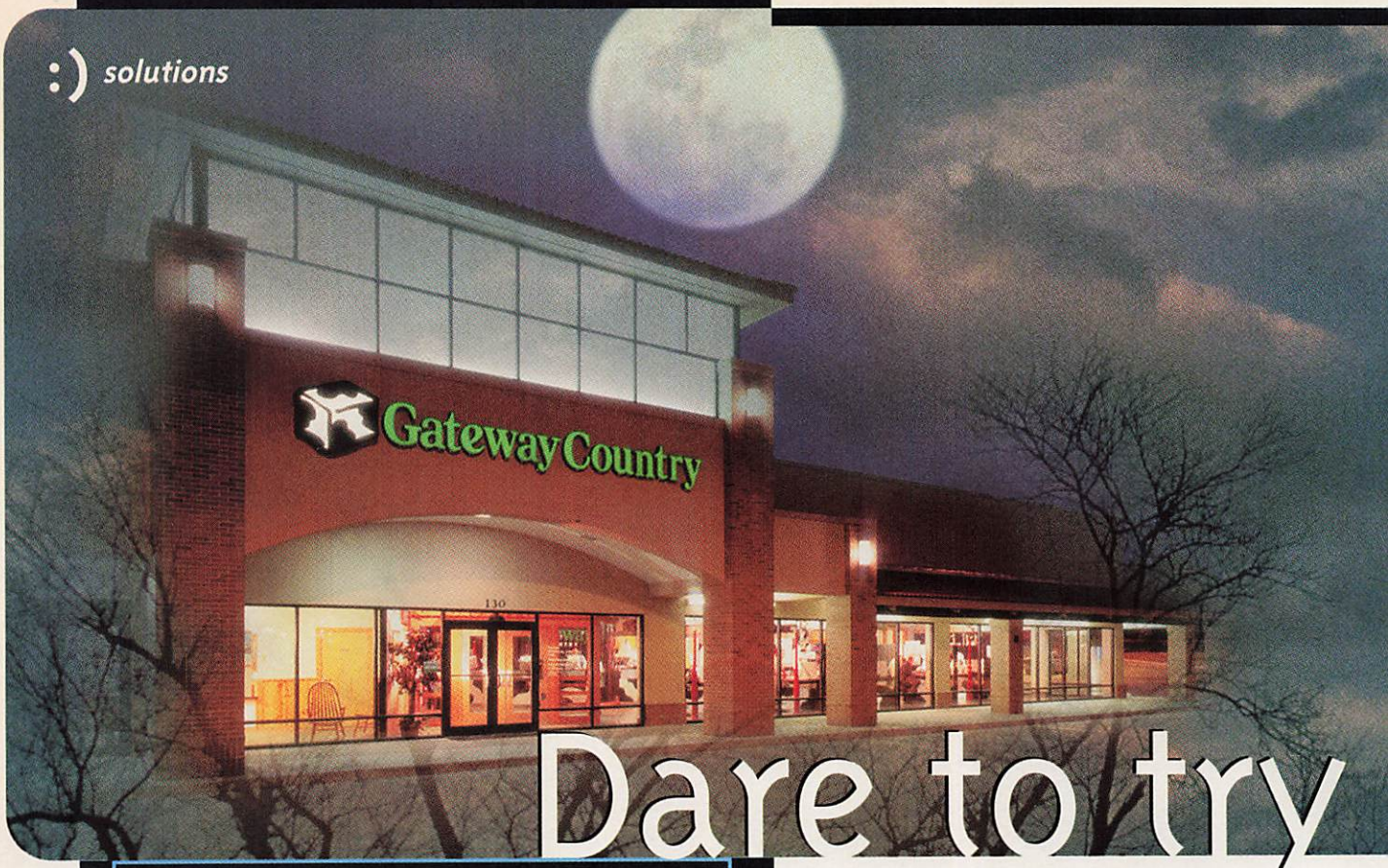
## aol watch

You think you've mastered the art of AOL instant messaging. Not. That is, unless you're currently exploiting the advanced features of Tricon Software's **IM Companion [triconsoft.com]**. This PC-only program lets you restyle your instant-messaging windows in dozens of ways and offers new color schemes for your missives. The free software also comes with a powerful Ignore feature for blocking annoying AOL members, as well as tools for logging your online jabber to *.txt* files. IM Companion can even turn your America Online workspace into a pseudo desktop, where you can add or delete useful shortcut icons.

MORE GURU FOR DAILY TIPS AND ADVICE, SURF OVER TO YIL.COM/GURU

So powerful
they're scary.

:) solutions

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**$200**[6]

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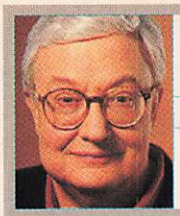




# PLEASE DON'T FORWARD THIS COLUMN

Here, Mr. Manners advises you on e-mail etiquette.

**1.** Strip all unnecessary e-mail addresses from anything you forward. There are two reasons for this: **a)** Many such messages have a ratio of 95 percent long lists of addresses to 5 percent content (usually a lousy joke). **b)** Would you want your private e-mail address hitched to a message that goes to untold millions of other users? Don't do it to others.

**2.** Never forward virus warnings. There are two reasons for this: **a)** Chances are, they are frauds. **b)** Invariably these notices refer to Windows viruses, and your correspondents may be using another operating system.

Bonus tip: Find out if the message is a hoax by verifying it at a site such as **Symantec: Hoaxes [symantec.com/avcenter/hoax.html]**. Then, if it is a fraud, you can notify the person who sent it to you.

**3.** Never forward a chain letter. There are two reasons for this: **a)** You do not want everyone to think of you as dumb and gullible. **b)** The letter moves in only one direction—forward—and therefore has no way to "know" what good or ill befell previous recipients of the letter. Therefore, it is all lies.

**4.** Never send an e-mail message formatted in HTML. Always send plain text. There are two reasons for this: **a)** HTML wastes many times more bandwidth than text. If your correspondents have slow modems, they will curse you as your HTML message downloads. **b)** Any message that comes in a weird typeface with strange colors or backgrounds is obviously from an illiterate.

Bonus tip: Reset your e-mail software so that it defaults to plain text. On Outlook Express, for example, go into Preferences, click on Message Composition, and choose Plain Text instead of HTML. On Yahoo! Mail, Plain Text is the default setting. Make sure that the bullet at the bottom of any outgoing message is checked. This will not only make your correspondents happy, it will also greatly reduce your uploading time.

**Do not send unsolicited JPEG photographs, especially if you are 'testing your new digital camera' (unless you are testing it on Piper Perabo)**

**5.** Never send a word-processing document in a formatted form, unless it is *absolutely* necessary. There are two reasons for this: **a)** Formatted files occupy many times more space than unformatted plain text—sometimes as much as 20 times more space. **b)** Unless the recipient has the proper software, it may open with strange and meaningless characters in place of some of the punctuation marks.

**6.** Do not send unsolicited JPEG photographs, especially if you are "testing your new digital camera" (unless you are testing it on Piper Perabo).

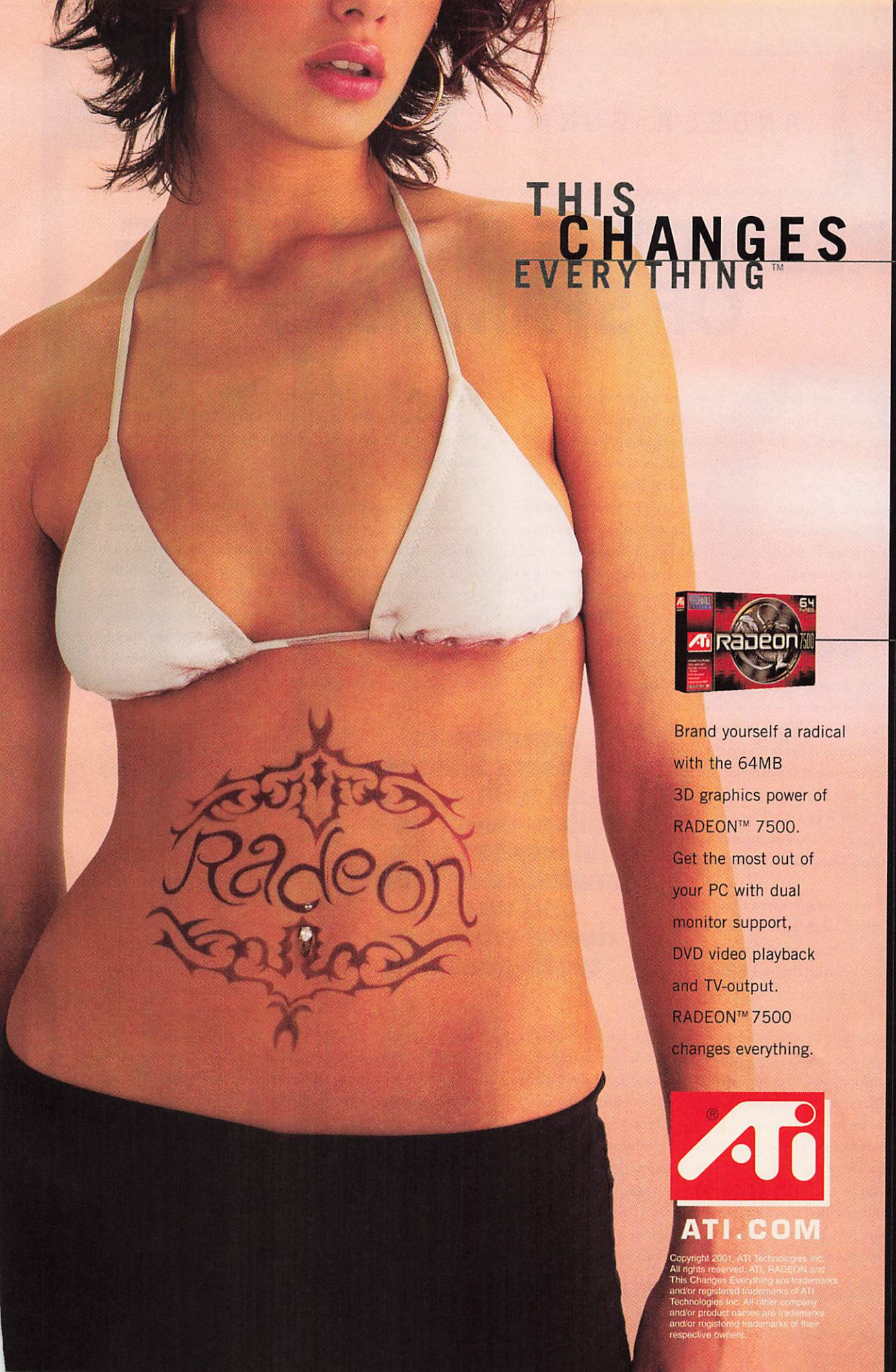
**7.** If you do send JPEGs, there are two things you must do: **a)** Indicate clearly in the header or a cover message what the photograph shows, so that your recipients can delete it without opening it—which they will very possibly do, personal photos often being of more interest to those who take them than to those being shown them. **b)** Unless it is intended for publication, save it at the "low" or "minimum" resolution. A friend once sent me a 758K photo of his new baby; it looked just fine after he resent it at 27K.

**8.** When typing ordinary documents and letters, use a flush-left style instead of fooling around with fancy indentations that will appear otherwise at the other end. For example, if you hit the space bar several times to position words, the effect will be different in fixed-width fonts than in variable-width fonts. If you didn't understand that, even more reason to keep it simple.

**9.** Unless your name is Margo Howard, don't send me any jokes. There are only about three different jokes circulating on the Net on any given day—and you may rest assured that Margo has already sent them to me.

**10.** Do not start any message with a paragraph apologizing for the message—worrying that it is irrelevant, will waste the other person's time, or may be off-topic or "sound dumb." The message may or may not be all of these things, but the first paragraph already is. ■

PAUL ELLEDGE

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ANGELA GUNN



# RESIST THE SIREN SONG OF SPAMMERS

**Q:** It was bound to happen. I finally got a piece of spam offering a product I'm actually interested in buying. Is it wrong to buy my printer ink from someone who sends out mass e-mails?
**A:** An ever-growing number of businesses, most of them following the time-honored business practice of monkey see, monkey do, are using spam to make their play. The theory is that it's so cheap to send unsolicited e-mail that even a tiny rate of return is worthwhile—and anyone who doesn't like it can just hit Delete.

Ethically speaking, though, you're aiding and abetting a damned nuisance—and a costly one. Spam costs Net users billions—yeah, with a *b*—of dollars every year in wasted time, wasted bandwidth, wasted computer space, and wasted dental work from teeth-gnashing on the part of those of us who get way too much of this garbage. Because most spam is disguised by sending it through unsuspecting and unwilling ISPs, the printer-ink company is likely to benefit from your purchase at the expense of some unfortunate Net service provider. Please don't allow it to do so. There are plenty of legit places to buy printer ink on the Net. Take your business elsewhere.

**Spam costs Net users billions—yeah, with a *b*—of dollars every year in wasted time, wasted bandwidth, and wasted dental work from teeth-gnashing**

**Q:** I read about a virus that scans computers looking for child pornography, then reports offenders to the police. Isn't this the use of a lesser evil to stop a greater evil?
**A:** That would be the VBS.noped—a strange little beastie that doesn't know what it's doing, doesn't know to whom it's talking, and in fact doesn't even know what it's talking about. Let me explain: This virus (actually a worm, which means it moves itself through the Net a little differently) turns up in your e-mail in-box as an attachment to a message about stopping kiddie porn. If you're foolish enough to open it (what's wrong with you, anyway, opening attachments you don't recognize?), it'll scan your hard drive for image files with smutty-sounding titles. If it finds anything that it deems offensive, it scoops up a list of files from your computer and e-mails a law enforcement address it chooses at random, sending word that you have "known child-pornography files" on your computer.

Does this sound like a good idea to you? If so, think again. Even the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children doesn't approve—a spokesman stated in interviews that unlawful means are wrong, even in pursuit of evildoers.

Child pornography isn't something anyone can judge by the name of a file. For instance, given what this piece is about, I might well have called it "childporn.doc." If this worm were to scan *Y-Life*'s computers and find that file name, a pack of blameless editors could face serious and undeserved trouble. Meanwhile, officials investigating the matter would be taking valuable time away from seeking out actual pedophiles. Not only does this worm not stop a greater evil, it actually increases evil overall by wasting the time of innocents and do-gooders. The person who wrote the worm would have been on far firmer moral ground by knocking off the vigilante tactics and asking experts what he or she could do to help.

**Q:** How can you write a column with "ethics" in the title when *Y-Life* accepts advertising from cigarette and liquor companies? The paycheck must be pretty good if you can ignore that!
**A:** I can write my column because the title is "Net Ethics," not "Net Self-Righteousness." Not only does my magazine accept ads from liquor companies, I myself have been known to accept a frosty pint of beer from a bartender in exchange for several bills of small denomination. And I know many good and ethical people who choose to smoke; that's between them and their physician, not them and their ethicist. Many of the world's greatest philosophers were fond of their so-called vices—most particularly David Hume, who had a delightful habit of closing his essays with a recommendation that the reader go outside, sit in the sun with a drink, and think about what a marvelous world it is. Some folks could follow worse advice. ■

**Right? Wrong? Write: angela_gunn@ziffdavis.com**

JAY GULLIXSON

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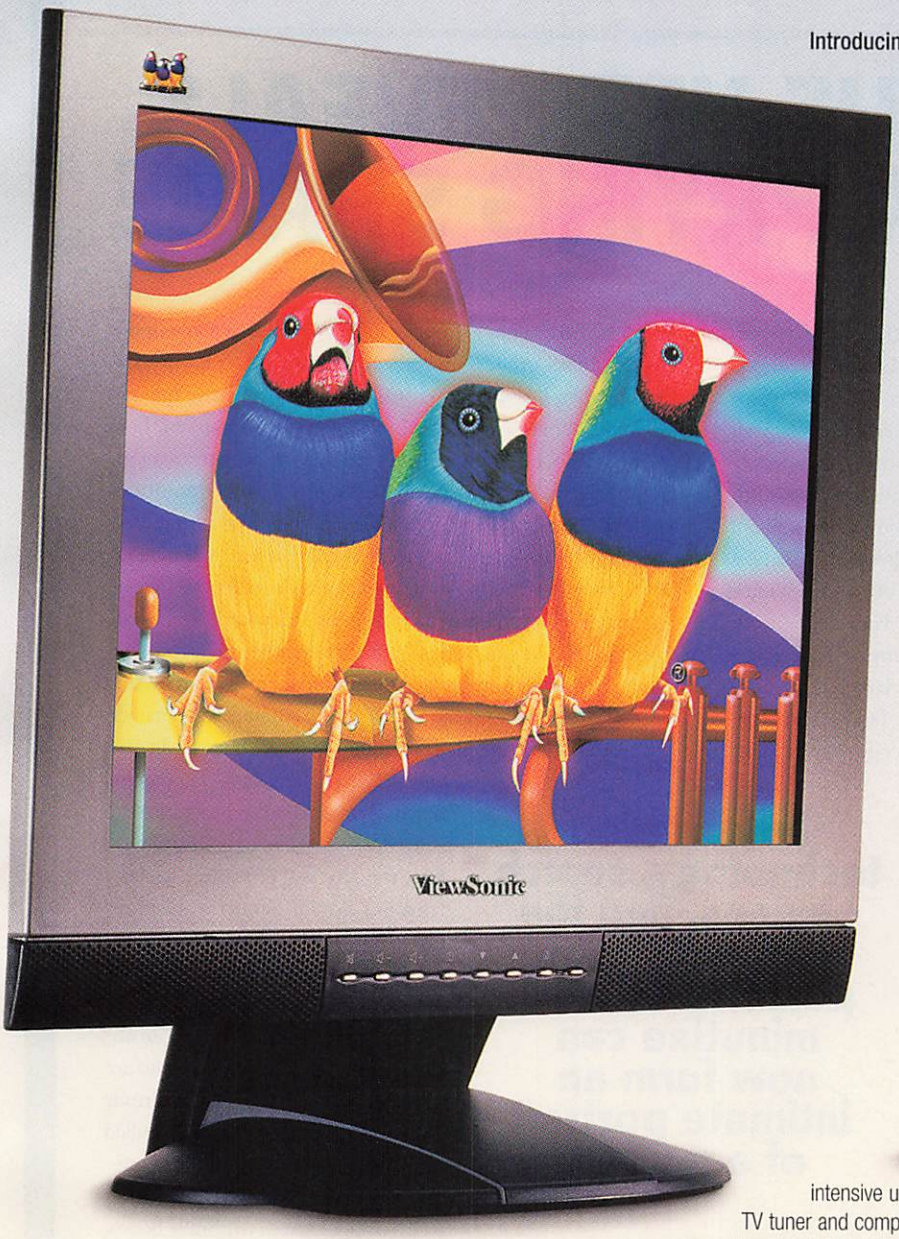


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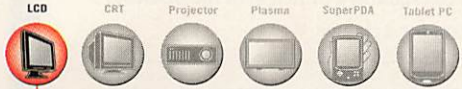

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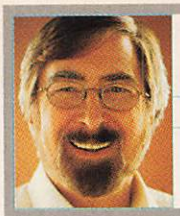



# WHAT THE NET REVEALS CAN BE A PRYING SHAME

Are we becoming a culture of stalkers? To read the flood of spam pitching ways to dig up dirt on people, you'd certainly think so.

Take the come-on I got recently for Cyber-Detective, a program that offered to help me find "a past lover who broke your heart," and, on the off chance I wanted to torment that person, would teach me to "send anonymous e-mail, completely untraceable." While that may seem an invitation to harassment (or worse), the program's promoters insist that snooping is a normal human impulse: "Everyone has secrets, everyone is hiding something...now you can find out the truth." For a mere $24.95.

The "truth," it turns out, for this and many similar services touted relentlessly on the Internet, comes largely from public records once tucked away—not securely, but highly inconveniently—in dusty corners of municipal, county, and federal depositories. Suddenly, information technology and search engines have brought such records to life, and the incessant cross-filing of personal-record minutiae can now form an intimate portrait of a person.

**Information technology, search engines, and the cross-filing of personal-record minutiae can now form an intimate portrait of a person**

It used to make sense, as Ohio state law dictates, to file the blueprints to your house so a prospective buyer could check them out. Now you're giving a handy map of your home to any burglar who wants to hit the Search button.

The risks go far beyond burglary. Amy Boyer, for example, might be alive today were it not for the stalker who obtained her Social Security number over the Internet and used it to map out her daily routine. Armed with a pistol and the address of her employer, he drove to her place of work, shot her dead as she was leaving, and then turned the gun on himself. Left behind on his Web site was this macabre note: "I found an internet site to do that, and to my surprize everything else under the Sun. Most importantly: her current employment. It's accually obsene what you can find out about a person on the internet."

What's even more "obsene" is what happens when we seek legal recourse. The killer got Boyer's number from one of the many online brokers who hawk such personal information for profit. There's enough money in this racket that some of our biggest banks, insurers, and other financial institutions are marshaling their lobbying power to squelch any legislative remedy.

When Boyer's family members prevailed upon Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.) to introduce a bill in their daughter's memory banning the distribution of Social Security numbers, lobbyists managed to get it watered down to nothing. Perversely, the new version of the bill, if passed, will make it even *easier* to obtain that all-important identifier. As I wrote in last month's column, once a snoop has your Social Security number, he can find out almost anything about you.

If you think I'm exaggerating, consider this final insult to Amy Boyer: After her death, her Social Security number was obtained by crooks who assumed her identity and ran up huge credit card debts. "Even in her death," her parents noted, "Amy once again is victimized."

Don't worry, though. **Docusearch.com**, the site Boyer's killer used to find her Social Security number, promises: "It's all totally professional, completely legal, and entirely confidential." Isn't that reassuring?

Simply put, we should have an absolute right to identify those who are spying on us. Credit agencies are already obliged by law to tell you who's pulled your file if you ask; that minimal safeguard should apply to cybersnoops as well. As Docusearch truthfully boasts, "This is the information age, and information is power!" After tantalizing you with the background information you can get on your babysitter or your date, the service adds, "All information obtained is held [in] strict confidence, and no one is alerted or notified of your search (including the Subject)." Why?

We need a law that promises the exact opposite. Contact your lawmakers—don't harass or stalk them, even though you can—and urge them to establish a principle of full disclosure. Let the stalkers beware for a change. ■

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**Aseem Batra [aseembatra@hotmail.com] contributed to this column.**

BLAKE LITTLE

THE VOODOO EXPERIENCE 2001
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VIEW FROM THE WEB

## The Cruise Missile Crisis

When Keith Henson posted a joke about blowing up Church of Scientology members with a "Tom Cruise Missile" in the **alt.religion.scientology** newsgroup, he didn't think it would get him arrested. Granted, it wasn't the cleverest joke ever made, but to date there are no criminal statutes on the books that punish bad humor. Despite this glaring hole in our country's legislation, Henson's posts were admitted as evidence in April when he was brought up on charges of terrorism, attempted terrorism, and interfering with freedom to enjoy a constitutional right (freedom of religion). Henson was convicted of the interfering charge (a hate crime) in a California court and sentenced to up to a year in prison, in addition to a fine of $3,000. Before sentencing, Henson jumped bail and sought political asylum in Canada where, at press time, he remains. With one quick clatter of the keys, Henson had joined the esteemed ranks of Lenny Bruce and George Carlin—those who've been arrested for telling jokes.

The thread—which Henson didn't actually start—is a typical flurry of geek banter, several people riffing on the Tom Cruise Missile concept. Anyone who's spent any time with those infatuated by technology and inflamed by a cause would immediately recognize this type of bonding and blowing off steam.

So how did Henson end up on the run in a foreign country? Setting aside Scientology's widely reported suppression and intimidation tactics (which the church has denied), the issue becomes one of cultural ignorance.

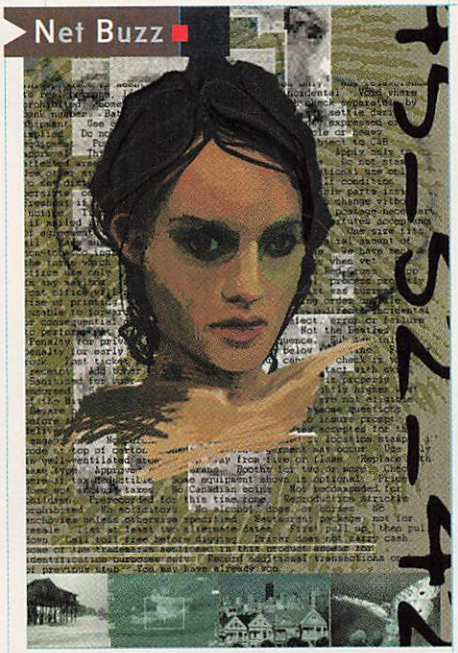
Jokes are inherently unsanitary. They take the stuffing out of our leaders as well as our loved ones, often making the comfortable uncomfortable. And for better or worse, the online "death threat" has become one of the Net's standard jokes. For instance, a quick Web search on *Britney Spears* turned up an entire domain-as-death-threat: kill-britney.com. It's practically a law of nature: Get enough Netizens together and they're going to start coming up with creative ways to off David Spade.

But if anyone had a mind to selectively edit the above, a process similar to the one Henson experienced, a person could be made to sound like a cult leader instructing his disciples to "start coming up with ways to off David Spade." In a world where the parody site Bonsai Kitten gets investigated by the FBI (see Talk of the Net, May 2001), it appears that everything you say, no matter how ironic the intent, is now fair game.

If Keith Henson had limited his protests to shouting at the top of his lungs about Tom Cruise Missiles outside Scientology headquarters, he probably would have been dismissed as a harmless kook. But once his words went out on the Net, they were enough to help convince a jury that a penniless 58-year-old man was planning to deploy a piece of military hardware costing $600,000 and accessible only to top levels of the U.S. armed forces.

Humor may be the only thing that's kept us from blowing each other off the face of the planet. But there's nothing funny about the Web's free flow of information, jokes, and invective resulting in the decimation of an innocent man's freedom.

Net Buzz



**BOARED?** Boar [boar.com] blends photos, drawings, and text in amazing ways, earning a recent Webby nomination and great buzz for artist Mark Stephen Meadows.

MARK STEPHEN MEADOWS

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FIFTEEN MINUTES

# The Gorgeous Guy

Another year, another Web celeb. Barely a blip ago, Mahir the Turkish stud became an overnight sensation when the URL to his Web site circulated faster than the Melissa virus. This year's online It Boy is Dan Baca, aka Gorgeous Guy.

Baca's saga began in the Missed Connections section of Bay Area community site **Craigslist [craigslist.org]**, where a seemingly ordinary post about the "gorgeous guy" at the bus stop carrying a gray bag sparked fast and furious responses from others claiming to have seen him, too.

Baca told one reporter that Craigslist visitors had been staking out his location, hoping to get a glimpse, and perhaps a date. Suddenly he was inundated with interview requests. The press followed him to work. Up to 2,000 e-mails a week filled his in-box.

But when it was revealed that the first Gorgeous Guy post originated from Baca's own office, reporters smelled a hoax. Baca confessed that he had been behind the original posts. Over pizza and beer, we talked with Baca about truth, lies, sexual harassment, and the media.

**You've been in *USA Today*, on CNN. What was your response when you were first contacted by a reporter?**

I refused. I did not want him to do it. I said, "I wish you would not pursue this article." I didn't want the embarrassing little thing to get out. He said he would run the story with or without my input, so I cooperated. I didn't expect it to snowball.

**Has this experience changed your view of what you read?**

I've realized how powerful commentaries are—whether they're on television, in a newspaper, or whatever. Unfortunately, when something is written in text and looks like it's 100 percent truth, people believe it, even if it's 100 percent false.

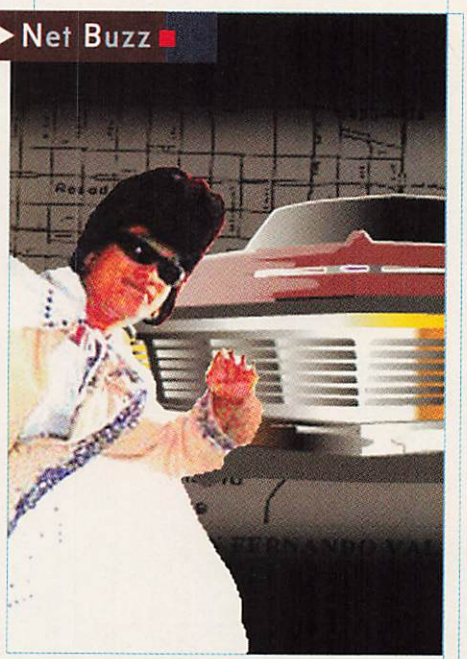
**Is there an upside to this whole event?**

I've already got a couple of agents and screenwriters talking to me.

**Have you felt objectified?**

Only when I walked down the street and people whistled. **JENN SHREVE**

## Net Buzz



**KHAI HIGH** Surfers are guffawing about the so-bad-it's-good **Y2Khai [y2khai.com]**, where videos starring "one Loc'd out Asian" blend the worst of Elvis and Dr. Dre.

## FIGHT OF THE MONTH
## Screen Grab

**The Protagonist »** David McOwen, a 38-year-old PC specialist and avid fan of distributed computing.

**The Antagonist »** DeKalb Technical College in Georgia, where McOwen worked until February 2000.

**The Demands »** The state of Georgia wants McOwen to cough up $415,000 for installing **Distributed.net** client software on 500 of the college's computers. He could face criminal charges that could put him in jail for 15 years.

**For Installing a Program? » Distributed.net** uses computer downtime to solve complicated research projects, in much the same way as the alien-hunting SETI@home. Says McOwen, "It was a pioneering effort. I don't know if pioneers are usually labeled felons."

**Whoops! »** Russ Willard, communications director for the Georgia Attorney General, contends that McOwen should have asked permission before installing the program. He may have a point. But to charge McOwen $.59 per *second* of bandwidth used? Says Willard, "Other than to confirm that we have an ongoing investigation of Mr. McOwen's alleged misuse of state property, I cannot comment further."

**Rallying to the Cause »** Fans of distributed computing have established a legal fund for McOwen.

**JANELLE BROWN**

FOR A DAILY DOSE OF NET BUZZ, CHECK OUT YIL.COM/BUZZ

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COSTCO BEST BUY

HEART OF THE NET

# A Zine Grows in Harlem

Richard Calton struggles to maintain order. A deadline is approaching for the latest issue of **HarlemLive [harlemlive.org]**, an online pop-culture magazine written by inner-city teens. Some of the 40 or so student journalists he oversees would rather blast Jay-Z on the office stereo than polish their articles. "It's a frenetic newsroom," says Calton, who has to raise his voice a few decibels to be heard over the din. "But fortunately there's as much writing going on here as goofing off."

Calton hatched the idea for HarlemLive after running an elementary-school newspaper at P.S. 206 in East Harlem. He and his students published the monthly using an ink-stained typewriter and printing copies of it at a local Kinko's. The school eventually provided Calton with a computer and an old ink-jet printer, but when the printer conked out, so did the project.

Exasperated by the lack of technology and institutional support, Calton took a leave of absence and, in the summer of 1996, invited five of his former students to run an independent newspaper on the Web. His volunteers were taught HTML at Columbia University's Institute for Learning Technologies, which donated an office to Calton and his crew.

Since then, the zine has moved into an office in central Harlem. The site attracts viewers from not only the homes of Harlem but also the outback of Australia and the tech spaces of Japan. Typical topics: the confederate flag, the AIDS crisis in the black community, breast implants, and the pros and cons of wearing braids to job interviews. With 17 computers, a dedicated T-1 line, four digital cameras, three digital video cameras, and a scanner, HarlemLive occupies what's easily the most wired space in a 10-block radius. It's one of a growing group of online magazines being created by and for young people; other examples include **YO! [youthoutlook.org]**, **WireTap [wiretapmag.org]**, and **Teenink [www.teenink.com]**.

To help HarlemLive's young staffers hone their skills, volunteer journalists from professional publications such as *The New York Times* visit to share pointers. "It's all about empowering these kids," says Calton. "Teens who invest their time here raise the expectations they have for themselves. When they interview talented artists and entrepreneurs, they're exposed to achievers, and they develop new ideas about their own potential."

For Melvin Johnson, 19, HarlemLive is a safe haven and a savior. When he joined the site's Web staff he was a high-school dropout, hanging out on a street corner. Six months later, he won an internship at Russell Simmons' (now defunct) 360hiphop.com and completed his GED. He now has plans for a career in Web design.

Johnson's friend Shem Rajoon, who was nearly failing out of sixth grade when he joined HarlemLive four years ago, wound up graduating from junior high school near the top of his class. Now Rajoon, 16, is HarlemLive's webmaster, and he credits Calton with teaching him how to write.

More than that, Rajoon says, the experience has opened his eyes to stereotypes of life in Harlem. "I think people still view Harlem as a place defined by gang violence," he says. "So I try to focus on the good side of Harlem. I report on its music and show that the community is alive with culture. That's what this whole thing is really about." **JEREMY CAPLAN**

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# PLAY

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# AEROSMITH'S NEXT LIFE

# aero

BY LARRY SMITH

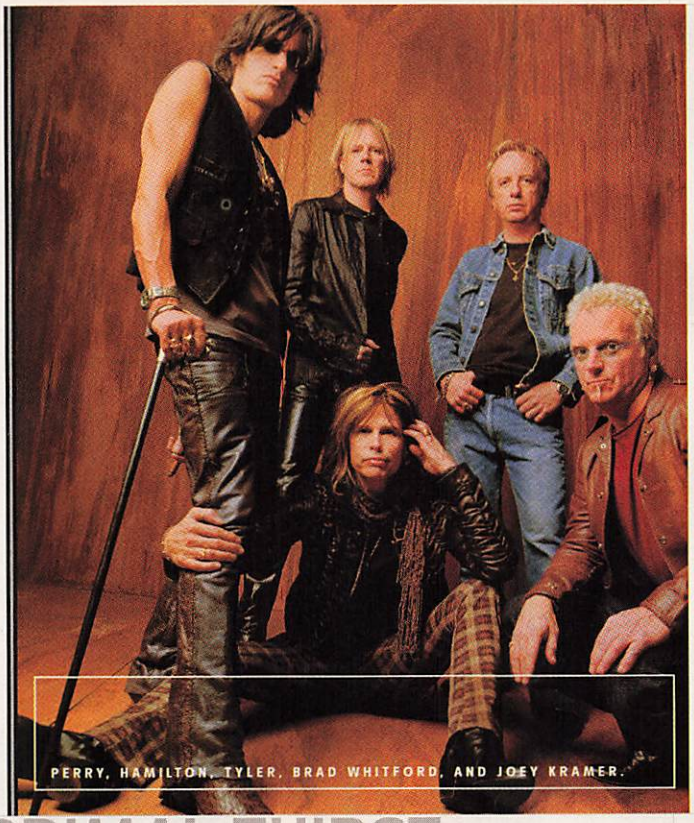
**America's greatest rock 'n' roll band takes its unstoppable energy into virtual reality**

What's more amazing: the fact that all five members of Aerosmith are still alive after decades of legendarily bad behavior, or that they are now fit, lucid, and having an intense discussion about their online avatars in the San Francisco Ritz-Carlton?

Somewhere between 1973's "Dream On" and becoming E*Trade's bizarrely successful idea of halftime entertainment at Super Bowl XXXV, America's greatest rock 'n' roll band became one of its most wired. "We were doing live chats on Prodigy back in 1992 or '93," says bassist Tom Hamilton. By 1994 the youth of America could enjoy the Aerosmith video game (and enjoy guitarist Joe Perry yelping, "They poisoned our food!"). Now, their site **Aerosmith.com**—created with the same team that worked with David Bowie on his pioneering **Bowienet [davidbowie.com]**—takes them into a new dimension entirely: Aerosmithworld, a 3-D environment in which fans create their own avatars, interact with one another, and dance digitally with the no-longer-so-Toxic Twins and the rest of the band.

Still, does Aerosmith, arguably the biggest American rock band in history, really need to give a damn about the Internet? Certainly they could keep selling out shows and making platinum albums with a Web presence as negligible as that of so many other best-selling artists. But

AEROSMITH, UNCUT
AN EXPANDED INTERVIEW, WITH SOUND CLIPS AND TYLER'S DREAM OF A VIBRATING ANACONDA, CAN BE FOUND AT YIL.COM



PERRY, HAMILTON, TYLER, BRAD WHITFORD, AND JOEY KRAMER.

after 30 years a rock 'n' roll band does not find itself at the top of its game and the top of the charts without embracing change. Aerosmith has explored new technologies with its trademark enthusiasm and creativity—which might explain why its fans range from the over-50 crowd to *über*-wired teens.

Talking to Aerosmith is like hopping a train: It'll rip off your arm if you're not fast enough—and it will keep going whether you're onboard or not. One minute Joe Perry's expounding on bioethics; the next, Steven Tyler's taking a digital photo of you and demonstrating—with the enthusiasm of a tech-savvy gadget geek—how he can enlarge your eyeball so it fills his whole screen.

A month before receiving *Y-Life*'s award for Best Online Experience, vocalist Steven Tyler, guitarist Joe Perry, and bassist Tom Hamilton sat down for an untethered chat about everything from the joys of Napster to the trouble with cloning and the future of sex.

**ISN'T THAT A PRIMAL THIRST WITH ALL HUMANS, THAT IF YOU CAN STEAL IT OR SMOKE IT AND IT'S ILLEGAL, YOU'RE GOING TO DO IT?** STEVEN TYLER

**Y-LIFE** What are you trying to do with Aerosmith World? You'd still be wildly successful without it—why even bother?

**STEVEN TYLER** That's like saying that once you've driven in a car and gone over a hundred, you don't need to go on a roller coaster. To boldly go where no band has gone before was our whole thing. We were one of the first ones to do an online chat. Here, we can each invent our own little world, in our own style. I've actually got a couple of places on the site that only Thom Kidron [CEO of Worlds.com, which developed the site] and I know about. And if you touch it, the door will open up, and you can go into the back and up a room and stairway. You can have your dark, alter-ego dance with your digital soul in a new realm, on a new stage, in a new place.

**TOM HAMILTON** What's fun about it is that it's real slick, with really amazing production values and all that, but if we think of some stupid thing that we want to try out, we can do it in a day. You can do little things where, when they're presented in the context of a Web site, it doesn't matter if they look homegrown or even amateurish.

**JOE PERRY** We always wanted to do an Aerosmithsonian kind of thing. We used to have a wall of shame in our warehouse, with the underwear and stuff, so now it's an opportunity to create our own museum.

**Y-LIFE** How does the process of writing songs change over 30 years? Do you write songs with the Net in mind now?

**TYLER** *[Laughing]* We think about how we're going to keep songs *off* there when we're writing them.

**PERRY** After the second record was when the big change came. Up until then we were basically going into the studio, recording songs that we played live in clubs over and over again, just recording the live show in the studio. It's been a long time since we recorded anything in the studio that we played for two years beforehand.

**Y-LIFE** Long before Napster, bootlegging Aerosmith had been a rock tradition. Did it bother you then, and does it bother you now?

**TYLER** Isn't that a primal thirst with all humans, that if you can steal it or smoke it and it's illegal, you're going to do it? It's a lot more fun than grabbing that apple in the hotel lobby. It could be fresh, but who the f--- wants it? I'd rather smoke some pot with the girl next door.

**Y-LIFE** Where does that leave you on Napster?

**TYLER** If Napster's a bat smacking the balls of music, who invented the mitt? Sony? The labels? Sony was selling MP3 players anyway. But the labels didn't think of it, 'cause it wasn't a big moneymaking thing. How would America be if on the corner of every street, instead of a bar, there was a free library? Wouldn't kids have a bet-

PREVIOUS PAGE: TYLER: STEPHANIE PFRIENDER; GROUP PHOTO: MARK SELIGER

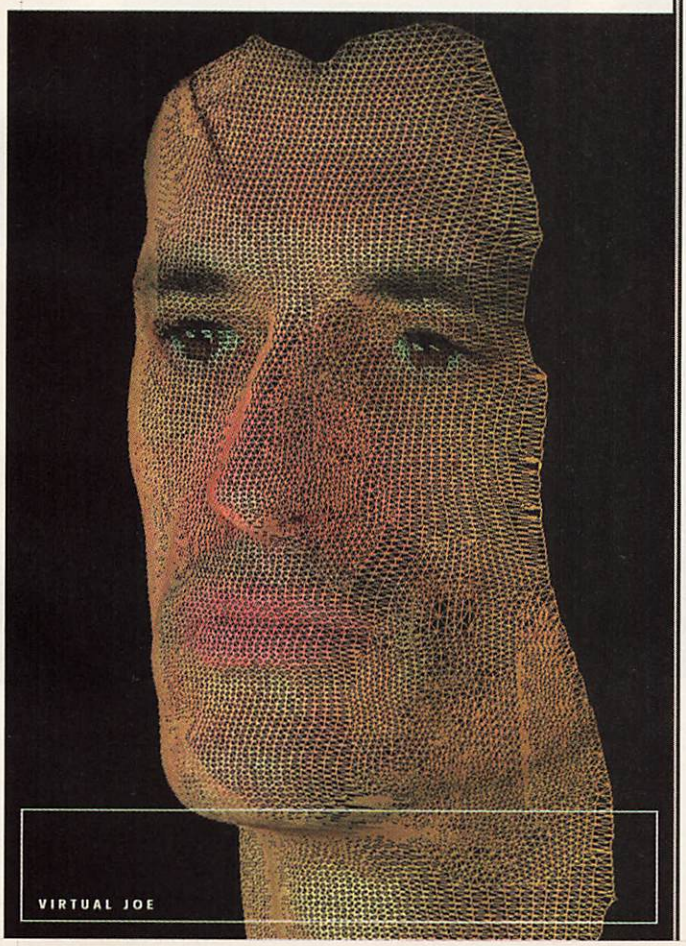
ter education if they could walk in and have every book they wanted to have? That's what Napster was, and it's a great thing. Besides, who thought bands got what they should get anyway? We've been getting ripped off for years. We get $2.50 on a $19 CD? Give me a break. Where's the justice there?

**PERRY** And the industry didn't catch up fast enough. It's just going to have to go back to the way it was in the old days, when singles *were* the record industry. It used to be that you'd put singles out, and then when you had enough singles, you'd put an album out. But the record companies figured out that they could make money off the albums. So the whole machinery has been geared to that.

**Y-LIFE** So does that make the case for what the Net can do—cut the record companies out of the loop, as Prince is doing?

**TYLER** We're next. It's just a matter of time.

**Y-LIFE** AT&T Labs just announced that it can re-create any human voice with a computer. Do you find the notion of an Aerosmith concert in 50 years cool or scary?



VIRTUAL JOE

**TYLER** It would be great.

**PERRY** I think the scarier thing is cloning—I mean, if you want to be scared about something. Someone's going to clone Elvis.... Humans have been consistently f---ing themselves up with technology since they first started busting up flint. To think it's going to change anytime soon is crazy.

**HAMILTON** It's like the Napster of medicine. We should be careful, and we shouldn't really do it, but how are you going to stop it?

**TYLER** The trend in 300 years from now with these people that have been cloned—the Elvises 300 years from now—is that there are going to be many suicides. People are going to be killing themselves because they'll know that they're just replicants.

**Y-LIFE** Where do you draw the line on embracing new technology?

**TYLER** I've been in the mind-set for the last 15 years of knowing that as long as we stay on this planet and don't blow ourselves up, whatever you and I can think of right now will happen.

**HAMILTON** Human beings want to take what's inside their skull and externalize it. That's what the Internet is—turning billions of little teeny brains into one big one.

**TYLER** Sit by yourself in the corner and revel in the fact that whatever you're thinking about is going to happen. I used to sit and think on my drum stool. Then I [started wearing] this black jet-fighter's helmet that I bought on the black market in Japan. And in there, I feel like a little kid in a box—it's my land, my domain. If there were virtual reality in that helmet, would you ever take the helmet off? You'd be sitting on the drum stool for 20 years, with a bald spot where that helmet is. [Entering that world] would trigger an adrenaline rush where your body would be chemically enhanced and changed.

**Y-LIFE** Is that good?

**TYLER** Take two vibrators, or the massage unit thing you get from Sharper Image or wherever, and hold them to your chin—do it one time, try it. You'll feel like you're falling backward, because it's jumbling your brain. But if you keep it there like this, and try to live in there? That's what I did with drugs for 30 years. That's [the effect] the Internet's going to have. You're going to plug in your computer and hold something here *[motions between his ears]*—it's going to be the heroin of the future. You're going to visually go [somewhere else] with that helmet.

If there were a button where your watch is, and every time you hit it, you had an orgasm, you'd be constantly hitting the button—and so would my mother and everybody else. So what do you mean, "Is it good?" I don't know. But I know it's going to happen. And I get off on my bad-assed self so much because I know it will happen.

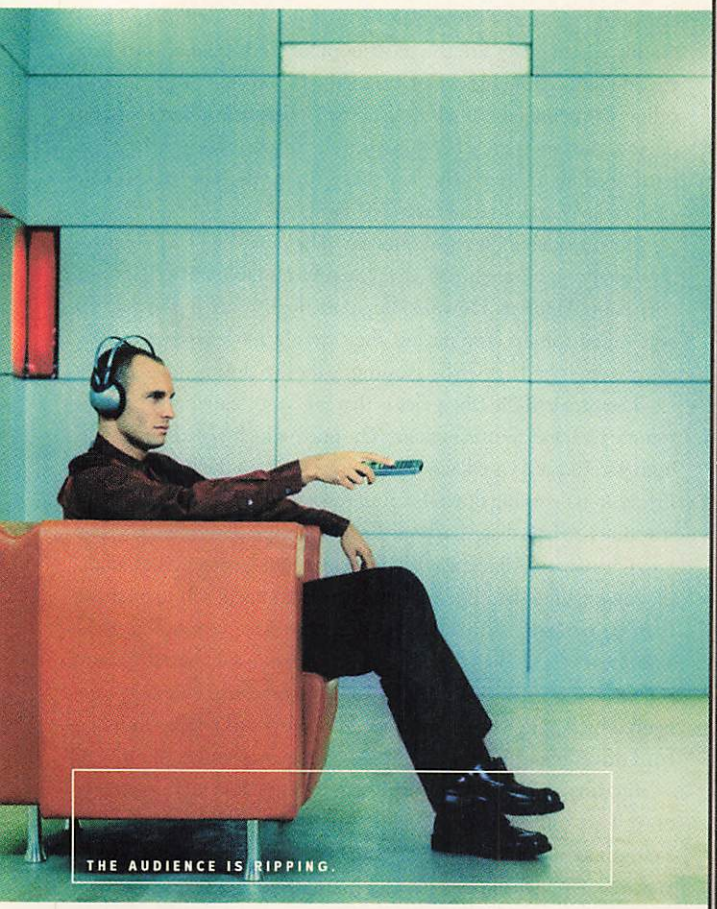
# CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC

Napster may be down, but digital music can't be contained. A two-pronged peek into our music present and future

BY CHARLES C. MANN

Let's face it: Digital music is fun. Copyright issues aside, it's a big kick to hear about a new band or a new song, then be able to instantly download it and play it on your computer.

Which is why my 15-year-old son had a long face this spring when litigation shut down Napster. He recognizes that artists need to be paid, he said, but he sure liked his Internet music. To which




MAN USING REMOTE: ERIK DREYER/GETTYONE;
MAN LISTENING: GARRY WADE/GETTYONE

I replied: "Don't worry, it'll all come back soon." And I showed him some pictures on the Web.

The pictures were of two little boxes, each about the size of a hand. Both provide access to huge amounts of digital music. And both show how tomorrow's digital-music experience could be—will be—better than Napster ever was. But these two boxes are different from each other. And their differences have crucial implications for the future of the music industry.

One box is an **Archos [archos.com]** Jukebox 6000. The Archos is essentially a portable MP3 player attached to a six-gigabyte hard drive that can store more than 100 compact discs. There's even a third-party 30-gig (500 CDs) upgrade version available from **FunMP3Players.com**. The other box is the Compaq iPaq (a competitor to the PalmPilot) that has up to 64 megabytes of memory. Using a special network card from Sierra and high-speed wireless Internet access, the iPaq can receive music from the air—any music the listener might want—in more than a dozen U.S. cities.

The devices work in different ways, but both are crude working models of a possible future. Tomorrow, it is widely believed, people will have access to what is known as the "celestial jukebox"—the entire world's inventory of recorded music instantly accessible at any time, in any location. Today you can obtain a first pass at something similar to the jukebox by hooking up an iPaq and piping in some wireless tunes.

To the listener, which technology wins out—a future Archos or a future iPaq—may not seem like a particularly interesting question, because both will provide all the music anyone could want.

## DIGITAL MUSIC NOW

1) Centralized streaming services. MusicNet and PressPlay, controlled by the five major labels, intend to distribute music through large Internet companies such as Yahoo! and AOL, which will, in turn, charge subscribers monthly fees to access their content.

2) File-swapping. Despite the so-called legal victories by the record industry, unregulated file-swapping continues to thrive. The biggest threat to MusicNet and PressPlay is the continued onslaught of Napster's children. Among the current usual suspects: Aimster [aimster.com], Audiogalaxy [audiogalaxy.com], BearShare [bearshare.com], Kazaa [www.kazaa.com], LimeWire [limewire.com], MojoNation [mojonation.net], and MusicCity.com.

3) Litigation. The natural result of 1) and 2). The Recording Industry Association of America has filed lawsuits and sent hundreds, if not thousands, of cease-and-desist letters to services that it believes infringe record-label copyrights. Some services are fighting back—Aimster sued the RIAA first. The labels are also involved in complex litigation with songwriters and Webcasters.

The bottom line? Look for the file-swappers to battle it out with the labels' new services, with the ease of use and low price of the former parried by the legions of lawyers representing the latter. The turbulent, angry world of digital music will remain turbulent and angry for the foreseeable future.

## DIGITAL MUSIC NEXT

1) Massive hard drives. Soon people will be able to put an entire record collection on a device the size of a pager—and zap it to their friends' devices almost instantly. Thirty-gigabyte boxes are available now. Watch what happens when 100-gig boxes are common.

2) Fast streaming. Racing to catch up with hard-drive technology, cell-phone music players will constantly be connected to the Net and able to tap into a vast online storehouse of music. Crude versions of this technology have been tested in a few big cities. The labels hope that this development will progress quickly, because it represents their best chance to stay alive in the Internet age.

But the answer makes a huge difference to the music industry. By their nature, devices such as the Archos pose a basic threat to the survival of the record labels. Which is why the labels are spending millions of dollars to support the iPaq and the celestial jukebox.

How are they doing this? To the record labels, 2001 will be remembered as the year they finally got serious about the Internet. The five major labels, which together represent about 85 percent of music sales, consolidated their online ventures into two rival groups: MusicNet (Warner Music Group, EMI Recorded Music, and BMG Entertainment, using technology from RealNetworks) and PressPlay (Universal Music Group and Sony Music Entertainment, with technology from MP3.com, which Universal bought last spring). MusicNet and PressPlay have been negotiating deals with a number of third parties, among them Yahoo!, RealNetworks, AOL, and Microsoft. By the holidays (or sooner—according to MusicNet and PressPlay) the new services' partners will offer music to the public by subscription. By most estimates, fees will be somewhere between $9.95 and $19.95 per month for the ability to listen to any music in an online catalog. Meanwhile, Napster spent the summer simultaneously fighting in court and feverishly incorporating new technology to relaunch itself as a $5-a-month subscription service in partnership with MusicNet.

Alas, MusicNet and PressPlay still have substantial obstacles to hurdle. First, the labels must sign deals with songwriters who also have copyrights on the music—and many songwriters are already locked in litigation with the labels over previous online initiatives. Second, the labels have to develop a digital format for music that is as easy to use as MP3, but that does not have MP3's undesirable (to them, anyway) lack of copy protection. Third, they must figure out how to zap music to tens of thousands of listeners at once without crashing their systems—no small feat. Fourth, they must find a way to stop their customers from getting the same music for free from file-swapping systems such as Aimster, Audiogalaxy, BearShare, Kazaa, LimeWire, and Opennap (for more on file-swapping, see page 87). Finally, both services must survive antitrust investigations by the European Union and, apparently, the U.S. Department of Justice.

The tasks are formidable. And even if the labels succeed, the new services will have smaller selections, be harder to use, and cost much more than, say, Napster in its heyday. They will pay copyright holders, though. And the technology will improve, as it always does. In five years or so, the labels hope, listeners will again be slurping up all the digital music they want. And soon after that, they believe, people will have their celestial jukebox—no one seems to doubt this. What is in doubt is whether there will be any recording industry by that time.

A little-known but crucial aspect of the labels' plans is ensuring that the bulk of online music from MusicNet and PressPlay will be streamed (that is, sent out continuously from some central source and deleted as soon as it's played) rather than downloaded (that is, sent whole-hog to the user's hard drive). The difference is the difference between a broadcast episode of *ER*, which the TV set receives and instantly plays, and a videotape of the same episode, which sits in the viewer's house and can be watched at will or lent to friends. It is also the difference between the wireless iPaq, which plays music beamed to it from a central storehouse, and the Archos, which simply plays whatever is on the hard drive.

The labels like streaming because it allows them to control the sound quality of the music, because it permits them to learn readily which songs are the most popular, and because they fear that downloadable files will be traded à la Napster. Streaming, in other words, puts the labels in the driver's seat—if subscribers stop paying, the labels stop beaming music. Subscribers are then left with nothing, in much the way that people who fail to pay their cable-television bills lose their TV shows.

Downloadable files are different. They may be of wildly variable quality but are almost always easily tradable out of sight of corporate America. Downloading puts the listener in the driver's seat—if customers stop paying, they can always get copies of new songs from friends, as well as play music they've already downloaded.

The problem the labels face is that it is vastly easier and cheaper to store files than to stream them. The price of high-speed Net access, both wireless and wired, has not changed much in the last two years. Prices aren't coming down because the cost of building new infrastructure is so high that it has been driving high-speed Internet providers into Chapter 11 (Metricom filed for bankruptcy protection in July).

Meanwhile, the price of hard drives has been falling by more than 50 percent per year—a 60-gigabyte drive (enough to hold about 1,000 CDs' worth of MP3s) now costs about $200. Picture such a drive with FireWire, the fast data-transfer technology pioneered by Apple. Copying 1,000 CDs' worth of music from one hard drive to another would take less than two hours.

Imagine the choice this will present to music fans in the next year or so. They can pay $50 a month for high-speed Net access and $20 a month to one of the front companies for MusicNet or PressPlay—and keep paying that money forever (or the music goes away). Or they can buy a huge hard drive for a one-time fee and grab their friends' entire music libraries for free. In both cases, the fans have access to almost all the music they want—anytime, anyplace. But the hard drive is dramatically cheaper, and will be even more so in the near future.

One way or another, our music will follow us around. We'll have devices the size of pagers that let us hear every piece of music ever recorded. We'll stick the devices in our home systems when we're in the living room and insert them into the dashboard when we hit the road. From the listeners' point of view, it won't matter whether the music is streamed from a record-label facility or downloaded from friends. But from the music industry's point of view, it matters a great deal—in fact, the labels' continued survival may depend on it. One thing's for sure: This battle isn't over yet.

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**Charles C. Mann is a contributing writer to *Y-Life*.**

# RIP, RATTLE, AND ROLL

## rip

There's more free music out there than ever. Here's how to find it, organize it, and take it with you

NOW HEAR THIS

BY CHRISTOPHER NULL

The Napster we knew and loved may be gone, but believe it or not, there's more music than ever before in that great repository of songs called Other People's Hard Drives. While you're at it, why not digitize your old bootlegs and vinyl—and upgrade your playback software, too?

## FIND IT NAPSTER MAY BE GONE, BUT FILE-SHARING IS BIGGER—AND HARDER TO STOP—THAN EVER BEFORE

We don't want to say we told them so...but we told them so. The RIAA's Napster shutdown has made a thousand file-sharing flowers bloom. Which means you can once again dig for shared gold on the Net (until the Feds close in again, anyway). The alternatives to Napster come in three major categories: OpenNap, various flavors of Gnutella, and a ragtag bunch of other options we'll call "the rest."

**OpenNap [opennap.sourceforge.net]** is simply an open-source alternative to the index server offered by Napster. On any given day, close to 100 alt-Napster servers are up and running. Music lovers connect and share tunes using the same old Napster program, but through a different central location. Napster add-on **Napigator [napigator.com]** lets surfers search for and connect with these alternate servers.

With longtime Napster rival **Gnutella [gnutella.wego.com]**, there is no central server: Everyone on the network is both server and client, relaying search requests to other "servents" who are likewise connected to the network. And Gnutella's underlying code is open-source, meaning it's made available to anyone who wants to modify it. Hence the existence of **LimeWire [limewire.com]** and **BearShare [bearshare.com]**, both of which claim to be the best Gnutella client out there. We're not going to play favorites; suffice it to say that though they differ in interface design, all of the programs mentioned here use the same underlying technology to share files.

Just to confuse matters, a host of other companies have come up with their own proprietary file-sharing protocols and intricacies, making what was once a simple decision (*check out Napster*) into a convoluted mess (albeit one that I think will probably yield something stunning eventually). The good news is that no matter what software you use to do your searching, you're going to find a ton of stuff. While on a recent day Napster listed 233GB of files up for share, **MusicCity.com Morpheus [musiccity.com]** listed 107 *terabytes* up for grabs, roughly 500 times the size of the Napster network.

This new software comes in a range of flavors. Some of the most popular include **WinMX [winmx.com]**, **Kazaa Media Desktop [www.kazaa.com]**, and **Aimster [aimster.com]**. These utilities, unlike Napster, let surfers search for more than just music. Practically anything—from videos to pictures, from software to recipes—can be dropped into a shared folder. Each service looks slightly different, but they all perform basically the same functions. For a change of pace, check out the immensely popular **Audiogalaxy [audiogalaxy.com]**, which requires a small download but works primarily through your Web browser (similar to the late Scour Exchange). Audiogalaxy has a critical mass of users, but it's quite slow and can hog your browser's attention.

We said we weren't going to play favorites. But we will say this: We've had the best results by far with Morpheus, which has proved to be the most reliable, consistently returning a sizable list of results fast. Best of all, unlike the many such tools whose posted findings turn out to be phantoms, Morpheus actually delivers the files that it promises.

### THE ELECTRIC TUNE-RAID ACID TEST

**TRYING OUT THE THREE MOST POPULAR POST-NAPSTER MUSIC SHARE SITES**

BY BILGE EBIRI

How do the most popular Napster alternatives compare? We looked for the single "Jaded" from our cover boys Aerosmith (don't worry, guys, we bought the album, too) on three of the most popular file-sharing services out there—MusicCity.com Morpheus, Audiogalaxy, and Gnutella. [DISCLAIMER: DOWNLOADING UNAUTHORIZED COPIES OF SONGS ON THE INTERNET MAY BE ILLEGAL. DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME.]

**MUSICCITY.COM MORPHEUS [musiccity.com]**

Seven seconds after typing "Jaded" into the search window, we got 25 results. Twenty seconds later, we got 64 results, almost all of them for the Aerosmith song, with a smattering for the Green Day song of the same name. Downloading a few took only about 20 seconds, even with multiple simultaneous downloads.

CONCLUSION Fast, efficient, and easy to use, though somewhat lacking in musical variety.

**AUDIOGALAXY SATELLITE [audiogalaxy.com]**

An overwhelming number of results for "Jaded"—1,948 of them, in fact, on this particular search—featuring everything from the Aerosmith hit (which we were prohibited from downloading owing to copyright restrictions) to the (misspelled) Arrow Smith hit to the Airosmith hit (both of which we *could* download). There were even a couple for Steppenwolf's "Jaded Strumpet." But to actually get the song, you have to send it to your Satellite program, which requires some intuition (and maybe even a friend's help) to get working properly.

CONCLUSION Not the easiest program to use, but amazing variety, which explains its popularity.

**GNUTELLA [gnutella.wego.com]**

Results appeared immediately after typing in the search, but this time, there was more variety. Plenty of the Green Day song, plus a rare item from Counting Crows. And, of course, who could forget Dokken's "Jaded Heart"? Download times, however, were much longer, which could be related to anything from user connections to traffic to file size.

CONCLUSION You're bound to wind up with more eclectic results, so it's good for finding the obscure. But you're on your own when it comes to downloading.

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## RIP IT CONVERT YOUR OLD VINYL, CASSETTE TAPES, AND 8-TRACKS TO MP3

Ripping from discs is old hat. But how about rare vinyl, cassette tapes, or—testing the limits of anachronism—8-tracks? It's surprisingly easy to digitally encode these curiosities from a simpler time—and you'd best do it now, before they disintegrate any further.

Assuming your tape deck or record player is hooked into a stereo receiver, all you need to get started is your encoding software of choice and a simple cable, called RCA-to-Mini (a 1-meter version goes for $20 at Amazon.com). The cable will connect the standard red and white audio-out (sometimes called "rec. out") ports on your receiver to the line-in jack on your PC.

Next comes the tricky part. Open the Volume Control panel on your computer by double-clicking the speaker icon in your system tray. Make sure the Line In slider is showing (if not, click Options/Properties and see that the Line In box is checked) and turn it all the way up. Turn the volume down on your receiver, and try playing back your tape or record. If the sound comes through the speakers on your PC, it's working.

The rest is easy. Your favorite CD-ripping and playback software (more on this in "Play It," below) will probably do line-in recording, too. In **Musicmatch Jukebox [musicmatch.com]**, for example, go to Options/Recorder/Source/Line In. Type the performer's name and album title in the Recorder window, if you'd like that info available on your player. When you're ready to record on your PC, press the appropriate button on-screen. Then drop the needle or start the tape. The files should get dropped automatically into the proper directories in your My Music folder.

Of course, your results won't sound as crisp as a CD rip, because, well, records and tapes don't sound as crisp as CDs. You can try cleaning up the audio with a program such as **DART Pro [dartpro.com]**, but bear in mind, this kind of rescue mission usually turns out to be more trouble than it's worth.

## PLAY IT YOUR MP3 COLLECTION IS REBUILT ANEW—TIME TO STOP WORKING AND START GROOVING

Though there are more music player apps on the market now than ever before, your old MP3-playing standby is probably plenty adequate for your current collection. Still, make sure you've got the latest software. For example, Microsoft's new Windows Media Player 7.1, at **Windows Media Technologies [microsoft.com/windows/windowsmedia]**, is a far cry from its much-maligned earlier incarnations.

Along with Windows Media Player, other good bets for spinning tunes are Musicmatch Jukebox 6, **Nullsoft WinAmp 2.76 [winamp.com]**, and **Sonique 1.90 [sonique.lycos.com]**. Check out Musicmatch or Windows Media if you like your software big and intricate, WinAmp if you like it compact. Another up-and-comer is Cowon's **Jet-Audio [www.cowon.com]**, a hulking piece of shareware with more options and settings than you'll ever need.

If you find that your audio collection has grown too large to manage without help, grab a music manager such as **MP3Cat [www.wizsoft.net]** or **MP3 Boss [mp3-boss.com]**, both of which simplify renaming and reorganizing files, as well as other menial tasks. These tools are easy to use and can bring the daunting task of managing 5,000 MP3 files back into the realm of possibility.

Portable MP3 players have come a long way since their introduction a few years ago, and prices have been plummeting. The big buzz is over capacity, with Creative Labs' stylish **Nomad Jukebox [www.creativelabs.com]** ($300) the clear leader. It's a 6GB monster, which translates into more than 1,500 songs.

While capacity will continue to increase, the downside with huge players is that they use a power-hungry hard disk instead of solid-state memory. That means that unless you're close to a power outlet, you'll have time to hear only a fraction of your music before the gadget goes dark. Longer life can be had with lower-capacity players such as the **Intel Pocket Concert Audio Player [intel.com/home/audio]** ($300), with 128MB of storage. You're now ready to reap the fruits of your labor. Go forth and crank it—with our blessing.

---

**Christopher Null is executive editor of *Smart Business*.**

# best

The best: Yahoo! Internet Life's Online Music Awards

Our annual Online Music Awards honor those sites and performers who exploit the Net's potential most fully. The nominees were selected by *Y-Life* editors from submissions sent in by you, our readers. The winners, chosen by a specially appointed Online Music Academy of artists and music industry professionals, will be announced on September 20. Check 'em out at [yilmusicawards.com].

## 2001 ONLINE PIONEER AWARD

Pete Townshend
[www.petetownshend.com]

## SPECIAL AWARD FOR BEST ONLINE EXPERIENCE

Aerosmith.com

## BEST OVERALL MUSIC SITE

Sonicnet.com
Dotmusic [dotmusic.com]
Rapstation [rapstation.com]
GetMusic [getmusic.com]
VH1.com

## BEST OFFICIAL ARTIST SITE

Gorillaz Live [gorillaz.com]
Bjork.com
Bowienet
[davidbowie.com]
U2.com
ErykahBadu
[erykahbadu.com]

## BEST FAN SITE

Prince.org [prince.org]
The Nicks Fix (Stevie Nicks)
[nicksfix.com]
Five Horizons: A Pearl Jam Fanzine
[fivehorizons.com]
Follow Me Around: Radiohead
[followmearound.com]
The Phish.net
[www.phish.net]

## BEST MUSIC DOWNLOAD SITE

Audiogalaxy [audiogalaxy.com]
MP3.com
MusicCity.com
EMusic [emusic.com]
BearShare [bearshare.com]

## BEST ALBUM FIRST RELEASED ONLINE

The Smashing Pumpkins:
*Machina II: Friends and Enemies of Modern Music* [smashingpumpkins.com]
Stevie Nicks: *Trouble in Shangri-La*
[vh1.com]
Melissa Etheridge: *Skin*
[vh1.com]
Dave Matthews Band:
*The Lillywhite Sessions*
[paware.com/lillywhite]
Dave Navarro: *Trust No One*
[mtv.com]

## BEST SINGLE FIRST RELEASED ONLINE

Prince: "The Work, Part 1"
[npgmusicclub.com]
Creed: "To Whom It May Concern"
[creed.com]
The Offspring: "Original Prankster"
[offspring.com]
Travis: "Sing"
[travisonlineusa.com]
Confrontation Camp: "Against the Elements"
[rapstation.com]

## BEST ONLINE RADIO SITE

Live365.com
Sonicnet.com
Launch [launch.com]
MSN Music
[music.windowsmedia.msn.com]
Radio Free Virgin
[radiofreevirgin.com]

## BEST ONLINE LIVE EVENT

Madonna at the Brixton Academy
[msn.com]
The Voodoo Music Festival 2000
[rollingstone.com]
Missy Elliot at the Brixton Academy
[warnerbros.com]
Ani DiFranco at the House of Blues
[hob.com]
Pete Townshend: *Lifehouse* Live
[mcy.com]

## BEST MUSIC REFERENCE SITE

All Music Guide
[allmusic.com]
ArtistDirect: Ultimate Band List
[ubl.artistdirect.com]
RollingStone.com
MTV.com
Net4Music
[net4music.com]

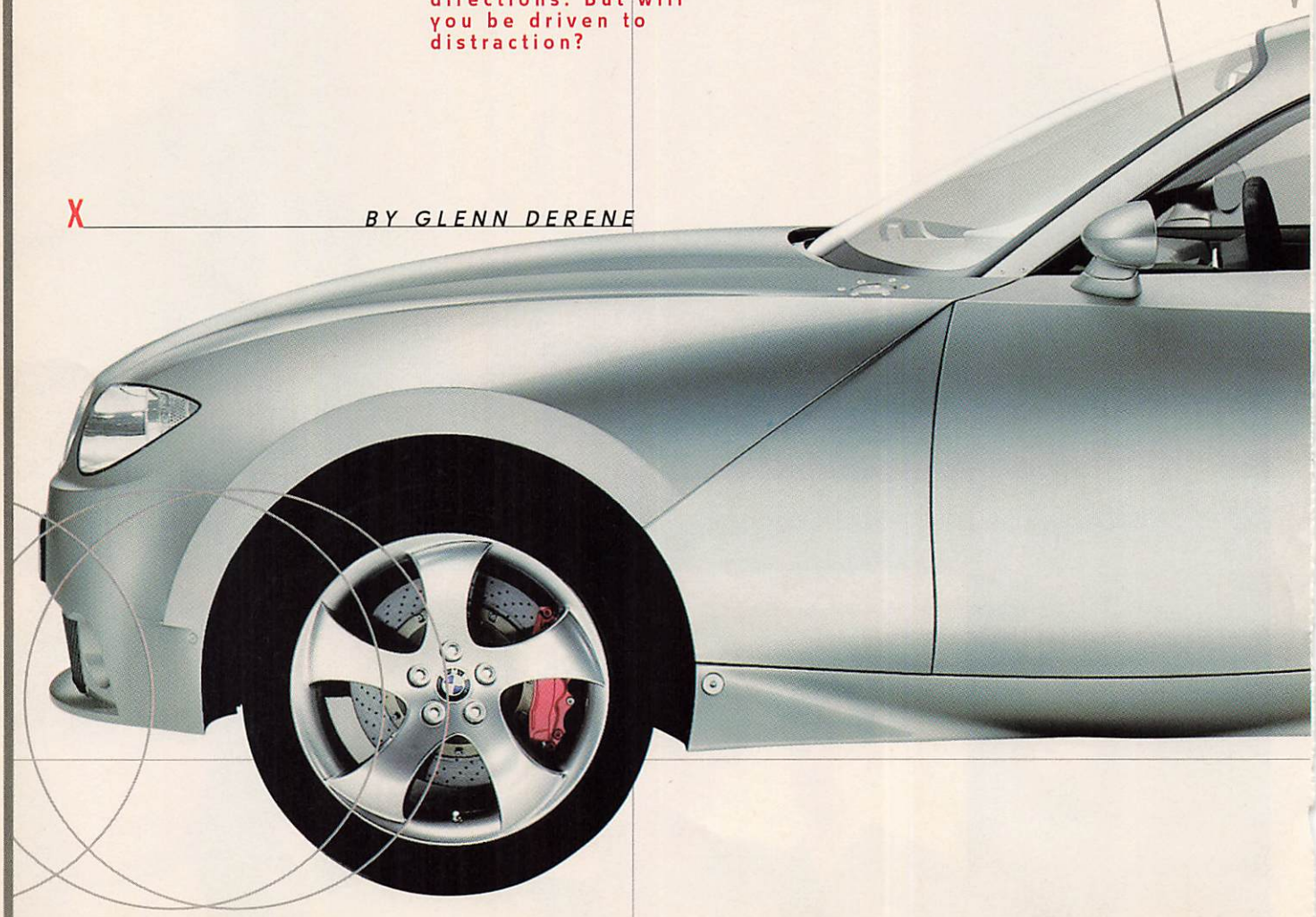
DAVE MATTHEWS BAND: DAN WINTERS; OFFSPRING: F. SCOTT SCHAFER; CORGAN: ROSS HALFIN/RETNA; TOWNSHEND: TERRY O'NEILL; BJORK: CHRIS BUCK/CORBIS OUTLINE; TRAVIS: STEFAN RUIZ; NICKS: NEAL PRESTON

NOISEMAKERS Clockwise, from top left: Dave Matthews Band, the Offspring, Smashing Pumpkins' Billy Corgan, Pete Townshend, Björk, Travis, Stevie Nicks.

# HOT WIRED CARS

Your next car will take you from 0 to 128K with Net access, e-mail, satellite radio, and real-time directions. But will you be driven to distraction?

BY GLENN DERENE



We are a society stuck in traffic, frittering away unproductive and frustrating hours each day as we inch our way around town. We have the kids in the car, we have our coworkers wondering where we are, and we have a big SUV in front of us that *just won't move!* Is it unreasonable to want a movie to entertain the kids, or e-mail access, or the means to find an open road that will bring us speedily to our destination? Well, no...and yes.

Automotive engineers are developing the electronics and infrastructure that promise to make our cars truly wired. The technology already exists to bring almost every communications and entertainment device we use in our homes and offices into our vehicles. But paying attention to all of this information at 75 miles per hour is a recipe for extreme chaos, and the results can be deadly. The danger of distraction has pushed the state of New York to outlaw cell phone use without hands-free operation—so imagine the reaction to a highway full of yakking, downloading, channel-surfing drivers who are also fiddling with global positioning systems in order to update their current maps.

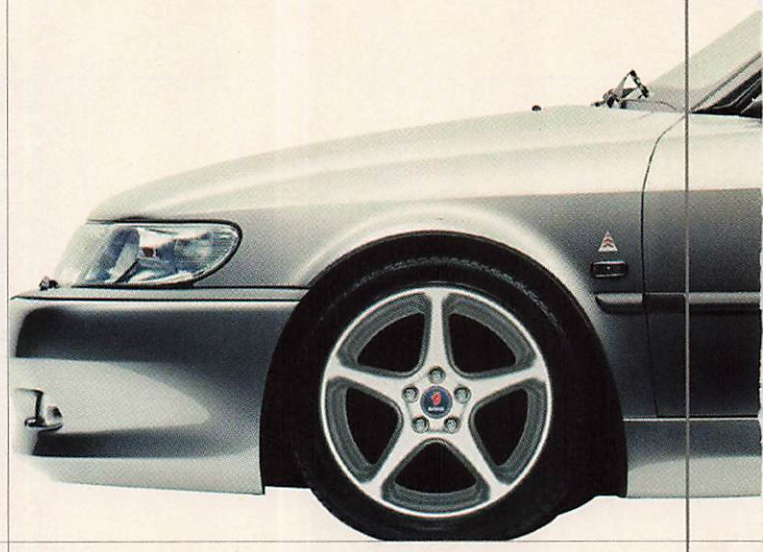
The challenge for automakers is to bring the Digital Age into our cars safely and thoughtfully (and profitably, they hope), balancing drivers' desires and concerns. Can automakers do it? Yes, but it means rethinking the dashboard, the steering wheel, and virtually every knob and dial surrounding the driver. It'll be up to clever designers to help you keep your eyes on the road as music, maps, and e-mail messages arrive.

## RACER X BMW X Coupe

Oh, we like. We really like. The BMW X Coupe concept car [bmwusa.com] challenges many assumptions of what a car should be, both inside and out. It has an asymmetrical exterior and a completely driver-centric interior. BMW's iDrive system will integrate all of the car's onboard devices into a single force-feedback control knob; the accompanying screen will be hidden behind a neoprene-covered flexible surface that stretches open when a dashboard lever is pushed down. Headlights move along with the front wheels to shine around curves. Satellite radio will keep the tunes flowing, and GPS navigation will keep you on track. The iDrive system will make its production debut in early 2002 in BMW's 7 Series.

## SLEEK NET APPLIANCE Saab 9-3

Automakers call in-car information technology "telematics," and the most swiftly expanding all-purpose service out there is OnStar [onstar.com], GM's huge and heavily promoted initiative. (It's $199 a year for the basic plan or $399 for a premium plan.) GM installs the system in 36 of its 54 models, including the Saab 9-3 convertible [saabusa.com], and the company claims more than 1.7 million subscribers (note that the first year of service is free). Most of OnStar's services are handled by a human helper via a hands-free cell phone embedded in the car. Services such as personal calling and Virtual Advisor, which provides limited voice-controlled Net access for stock quotes and the like, are handled entirely by OnStar's central computers. So far, OnStar is the only telematics service offering e-mail. It operates in receive-only mode in connection with an OnStar account. Ford's similar Wingcast service is due next year.

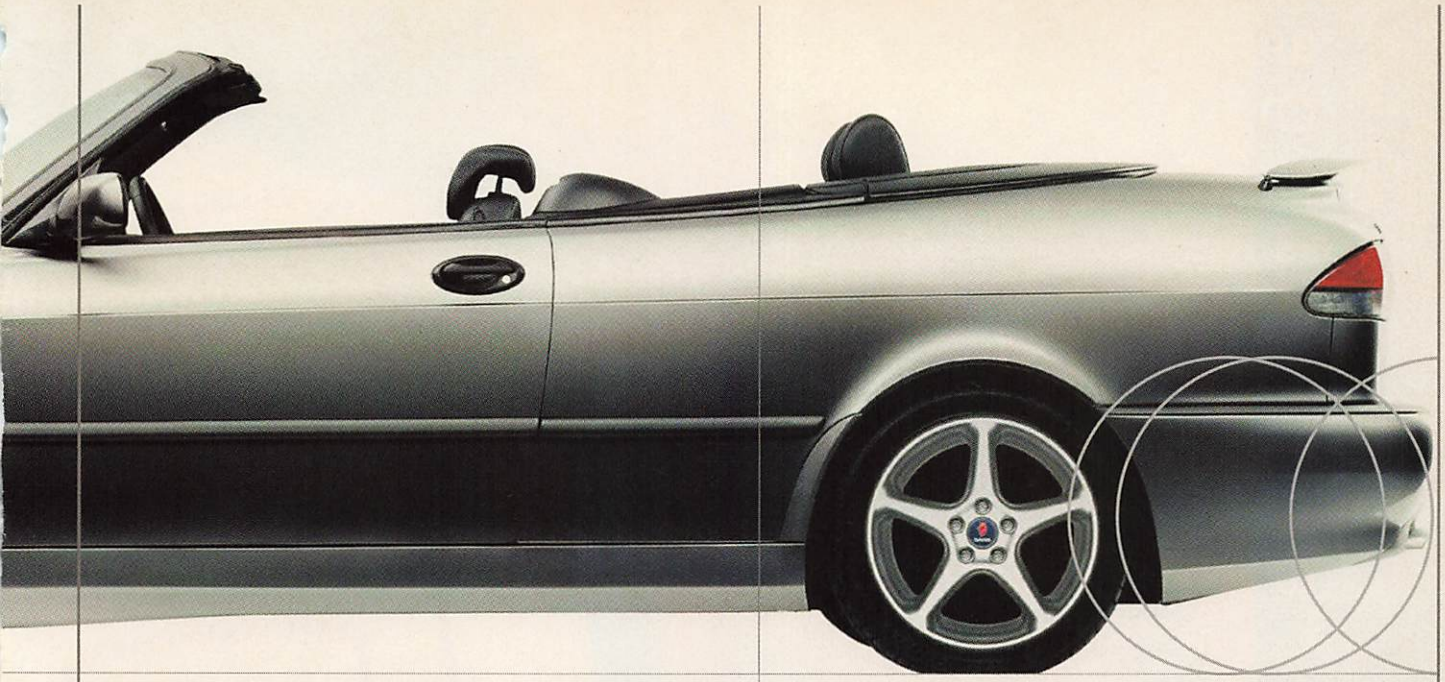


## SONIC BOOM Cadillac Seville

Antennas up! The next big entertainment medium to hit the roads is actually radio. Satellite radio is completely digital and promises 100 channels of crystal-clear reception across the country, with many of them running commercial-free. Two providers are competing. First out of the gate is XM [xmradio.com], with its two satellites, Rock and Roll, already in orbit. Allied with GM and Honda, XM's first factory-installed satellite radios are rolling off the assembly line in 2002-model-year Cadillac Sevilles and DeVilles [cadillac.com]. Sirius [siriusradio.com], which is partnered with Chrysler, Ford, Mercedes, BMW, and others, is projected to be in cars early next year. Sounds great, but what's the catch? Well, it's like cable TV: You pay for the service. XM plans to charge $9.99 a month, and Sirius, $12.95—not a bad deal if it's important to you to have all jazz, all the time, on any interstate, but many will bristle at the idea of paying for radio.

## EYES ON THE ROAD Infiniti Q45

Until the invention of the transparent car, drivers will have to live with blind spots, and that means dented fenders, bumped bumpers, and high-speed near misses. Why not have the car look out for itself? Mercedes and Cadillac have optional radar parking-assist sensors that monitor the areas around your front or rear bumper and display warnings when you are about to hit something. The new 2002 Infiniti Q45 [infiniti.com] even has a rearview monitoring system that engages when the car is put in reverse. The image from a small video camera mounted near the license plate is displayed on an LCD screen as you back up. Volvo and Ford may develop cameras that replace rearview and side-view mirrors and consolidate visual information within your line of sight. Further protection should come from collision-avoidance systems being tested by the Department of Transportation's Intelligent Vehicle Initiative.



## SCREEN GEM Mercedes S-Class

Expect to see multifunction LCD command screens embedded in the dashboard. Today, Mercedes' S-Class [mbusa.com] leads the way. While there are still plenty of buttons for the high-tech mechanical features, many of the entertainment, navigation, phone, and telematics interfaces are controlled on the center-mounted screen by either the driver or the passenger. For the moment, Mercedes drivers can use the screen in conjunction with the company's Tele Aid service (free for the first year, $240 for the following year), which operates in much the same way that OnStar's Virtual Advisor does. Users set up a Web page on a microsite within Mercedes' site and download updates of the page to their car. Up to nine pages of CNN news, weather, sports, and stock quotes can be displayed per download and saved until the next update. One caveat: The system is one-way; you can't send messages.

## ARE WE THERE YET? Acura MDX

Car navigation systems have been around since the 1980s, but improvements in interface design, mapping technology, and GPS accuracy have finally made them useful. Most luxury carmakers offer optional nav systems, and the DVD-based touch-screen system in the Acura MDX ($2,000) [acura.com] is considered one of the most user-friendly available on the market today. You can also install your own. Pioneer's AVIC-9DVD [pioneerelectronics.com] is a voice-controlled system that can also play DVD movies for the rear-seat passengers when it's not reading a map disk. It's the first system that offers integrated real-time traffic information for 28 major cities, giving you the option to reroute automatically around jams before you get stuck in them. Cool, but be prepared to pay up to $4,000 for the entire system. (If you'd like to invest in a Rand McNally road atlas, on the other hand, that'll be $10.95.)

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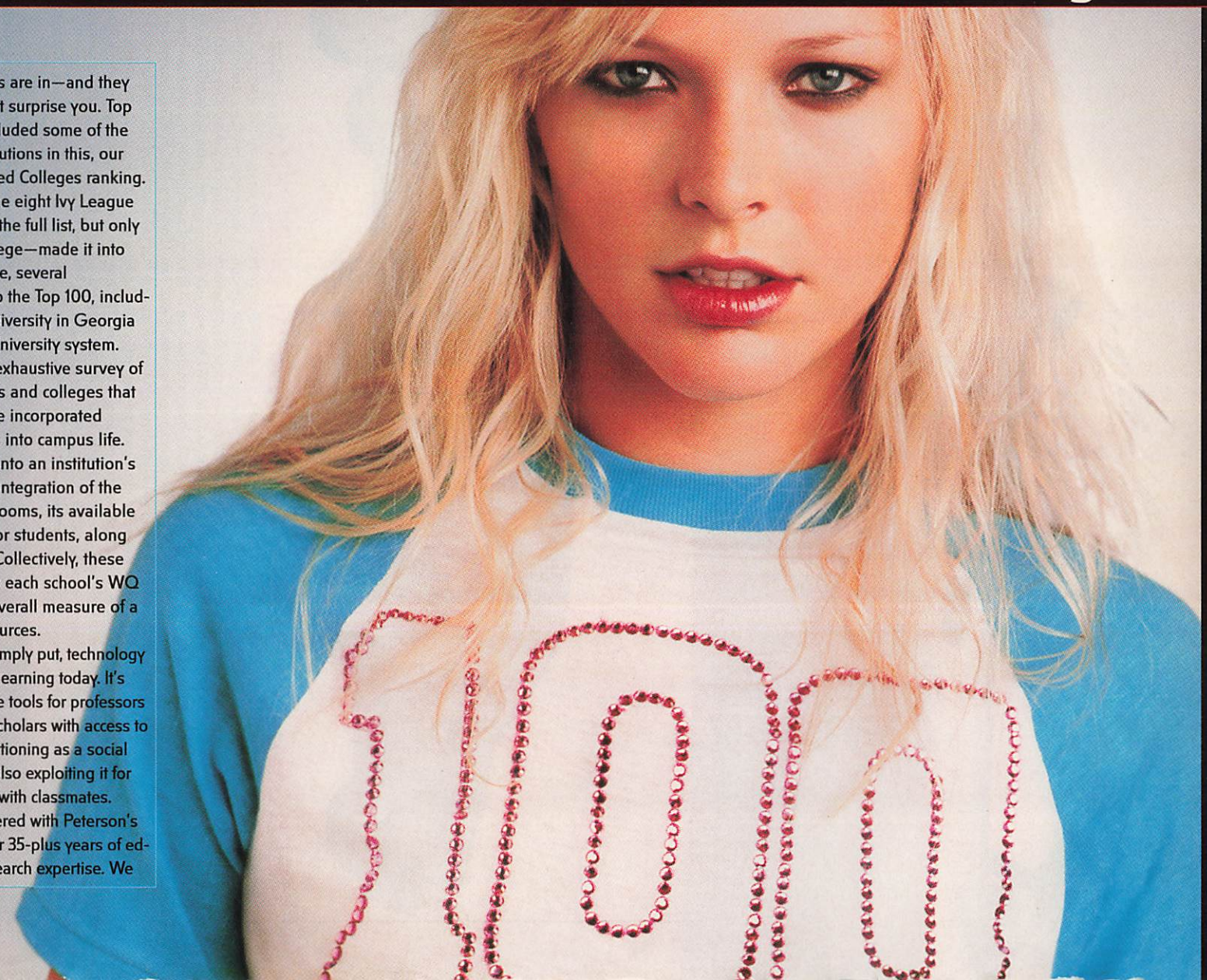
GLENN DERENE, a New York-based writer, has covered automobile technology for *GQ*, *Maxim*, *Diversion*, and *The Robb Report*.

Photographs by Jesse Frohman

# The Hot One Hundred Wired Colleges




The grades are in—and they just might surprise you. Top honors eluded some of the nation's leading institutions in this, our fifth annual Most Wired Colleges ranking. Of course, seven of the eight Ivy League schools made it onto the full list, but only one—Dartmouth College—made it into the Top 20. Meanwhile, several newcomers broke into the Top 100, including Valdosta State University in Georgia and the Texas A&M University system.

We conducted an exhaustive survey of 1,300 U.S. universities and colleges that examines how they've incorporated network technologies into campus life. Our survey inquired into an institution's sheer computing power, its integration of the Net into curricula and classrooms, its available hours of technical support for students, along with loads of other criteria. Collectively, these factors helped us determine each school's WQ (wiredness quotient)—our overall measure of a university's technology resources.

Why look at wiredness? Simply put, technology plays a crucial role in higher learning today. It's spawning powerful interactive tools for professors in the classroom, providing scholars with access to vast digital libraries, and functioning as a social forum for students, who are also exploiting it for that age-old pastime: flirting with classmates.

As in years past, we partnered with Peterson's [petersons.com], tapping their 35-plus years of educational publishing and research expertise. We

devised the survey, they collected the data, and we translated it into rankings. On the chart, you'll notice a few schools with asterisks next to their names. These institutions' IT departments either declined to participate in our survey or failed to meet the survey deadline. For these schools *Y-Life* gathered data independently, without assistance from Peterson's. In some instances, technology professionals at the nonparticipating universities provided us with the relevant information. In other cases, our researchers worked with student reporters. We also mined schools' public Web sites for answers to many of our questions.

Some may disagree with our criteria or methodology, and we think that's healthy. While we're sure IT departments would prefer to issue their own assessments of their tech resources, third-party evaluation is integral to giving the public an independent point of view. This year several major colleges and universities helped us to hone our questions and refine our ranking formula—we feel it's our fairest and most representative survey yet.

Before studying the results, take a look at the area alongside the chart in which we explain the six categories used in rating the schools. We also elaborate on our new grading system, which replaces last year's statistical snapshot. This year's letter grades allow everyone to see, quickly and easily, the broad categories where schools scored high (or lost points).

If you're hungry for more, head to the Web. Our site [wiredcolleges.com] has rankings for the top 200 wired colleges, along with evaluations of small colleges and universities and two-year institutions. We've also posted more detail there about how the numbers stacked up and how we gathered our data.

And now, we introduce *Y-Life*'s Class of 2001.

BY ROB BERNSTEIN & JEREMY CAPLAN

STYLIST: TIFFANY PENTZ; HAIR: RICHARD KEOGH FOR WARREN TRICOMI; MAKEUP: ANGIE PARKER FOR TONY & TINA

## 28% OF SCORE Infrastructure

At the core of any institution's wired effort is the campus technology infrastructure, the underlying backbone of the university network. This includes everything from the cabling and computer ports in the dormitory walls to the desktop systems in the computer labs.

**Major factors:** Percentage of new public computers purchased in each of the last five years; percentage of public computers available 24/7; percentage of dorm rooms with high-speed network access; percentage of classrooms with high-speed network access; percentage of classrooms with active Ethernet ports per desk; availability of network ports in campus facilities for mobile computing; gigabit networking; and frequency of network outages.

### Grades

**A** The university's network is lightning-quick and can be accessed by students nearly anywhere on campus, including most dorm rooms, classrooms, and public facilities.

**B** All or most dorm rooms are connected to the Net. The school could offer better hours of access to public labs, and more ports on campus for mobile computing.

**C** High-speed access to the Net is available, but the school is not likely a participant in a major gigabit project. The school lacks around-the-clock access to labs, and PCs may be upgraded infrequently.

**D** The school tends to keep older PCs longer than most institutions, has inadequate lab hours, and experiences frequent or unusually long network outages.

## 22% OF SCORE Student Resources

Today, students can go online—instead of waiting in line—to access critical campus resources, including faculty advisers and the registrar. The best schools also provide students with access to the latest computer peripherals, such as digital video cameras and wireless LAN cards.

**Major factors:** Online class registration and drop/add; online grade reports, advising, and career-counseling; online bookstore; online course catalog and evaluations; online campus news; Web-based tuition payment; campus-supported Web space and shared network file space for students; computer purchasing plans; equipment available for temporary use by students.

### Grades

**A** Nearly all university administrative services are accessible via the Web, and computer labs are state-of-the-art. The school provides network file space and gives students one or more options for purchasing computers at a discount.

**B** Some Web-based services are offered, including registration, course catalog, and campus announcements; students also receive space on university servers to build sites.

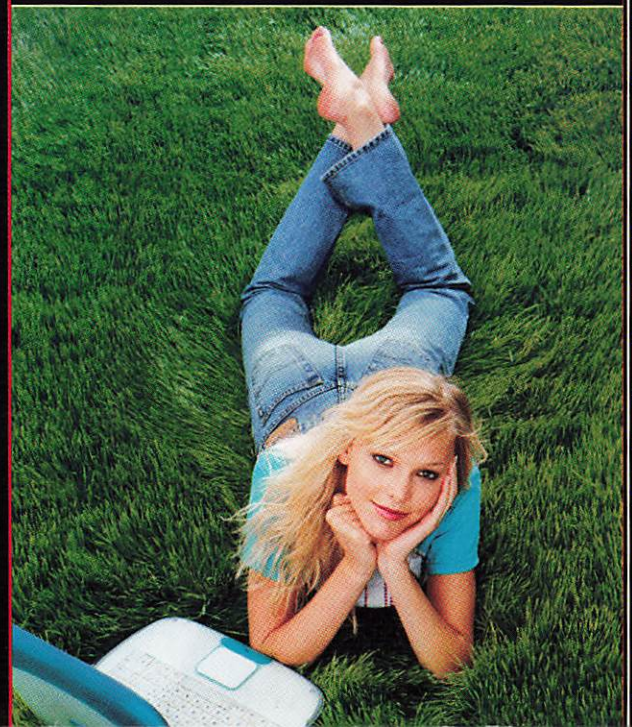
**C** Limited Web and network file space is available; either the computer labs or the libraries are unequipped with the latest gadgetry.

**D** Students can access only a handful of such ordinary computer peripherals as scanners. Also, students can't likely register for classes via the Web—a major drawback at large universities.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 23 | **University of California, Berkeley*** berkeley.edu | 88.38 | B- | A | A | A | B | C | **UC Berkeley's** outstanding digital archives (sunsite.berkeley.edu/Collections) are updated regularly by tech-savvy librarians hailing from all parts of the world. |
| 24 | **Northern Michigan University** www.nmu.edu | 88.36 | A | A- | B- | B+ | A- | B+ | **NMU students are** given new laptops every two years. In addition, they can dial in to the campus network for free from anywhere in the state. |
| 25 | **Iowa State University** www.iastate.edu | 88.21 | B | A | A- | B+ | A | C- | **Trained advisers staff** computer labs 24 hours a day. Iowa State is one of the few U.S. schools to offer a master's degree in computer security. |
| 26 | **Indiana University-Purdue University*** www.iupui.edu | 88.18 | B+ | B+ | A- | A- | B | B+ | **The Community Learning** Network at IUPUI runs more than 25 certificate programs, and the school's CyberLab (cyberlab.iupui.edu) develops innovative new software for teachers. |
| 27 | **Tennessee State University** www.tnstate.edu | 88.05 | B- | A | B+ | A | A | C- | **The Nashville-based** campus will soon let students earn A.B. and B.S. degrees online, and it promises to have a wireless network in place this fall. |
| 28 | **Rochester Institute of Technology** rit.edu | 87.96 | B | A- | B+ | A | A | D+ | **More than a** fourth of RIT students have taken distance-learning courses, but wireless networking is not a priority; the library is the only campus building with wireless access. |
| 29 | **Washington State University** wsu.edu | 87.84 | B | A- | A- | A | A | C | **WSU's new Center** for Teaching, Learning, and Technology will open soon in the heart of campus and will feature a cybercafé, as well as other digital amenities. |
| 30 | **Penn State/University Park Campus*** psu.edu | 87.76 | B+ | A- | B+ | A | A- | D- | **An expansive digital** library (www.libraries.psu.edu) lets students access lecture notes and allows faculty to post reference materials online. |
| 31 | **Kansas State University** ksu.edu | 87.45 | B- | A | A- | A | B+ | C+ | **Only half of the** classrooms have high-speed access, but the rest of the campus is extremely wired. Extra credit: KSU offered Internet2's first interinstitutional course in the fall of 1999. |
| 32 | **Temple University** www.temple.edu | 87.41 | C+ | A | A- | A | A | D | **The Web is** their temple; undergrads do everything online, including voting in student elections. If only the school could get its wireless plans in gear and increase public lab hours. |
| 33 | **New York University** nyu.edu | 87.35 | C+ | A | A | B | A | C- | **The university's Web** site is New York's finest. Listen to a live stream of the school's radio station, WNYU (wnyu.nyu.edu/listen.html), or check in on class activities (nyu.edu/classes). |
| 34 | **George Mason University** gmu.edu | 87.24 | B | B- | B+ | A | A | A- | **George Mason is** one of the 39 academic colleges and universities in the state that make up the impressive Virtual Library of Virginia (www.viva.lib.va.us). |
| 35 | **University of Michigan*** umich.edu | 87.18 | B+ | B | A- | C+ | A | A | **The University of** Michigan's popular Web portal fields approximately 27 million *http* requests per month, serving a staggering 37,000 pages per hour. |
| 36 | **Ball State University** bsu.edu | 87.12 | C+ | A- | A | A- | A | C+ | **On the ball:** The school has 88 electronic classrooms, each of which is equipped with a Mac, PC, VCR, laser disc player, and high-speed connection to the Net. |
| 37 | **Kent State University** kent.edu | 86.99 | C+ | A | A | A- | A | C- | **This year Kent** State received more than $2 million in technology grants, which are helping fund a distance-learning collaboration with universities as far afield as Russia. |
| 38 | **San Francisco State University** www.sfsu.edu | 86.82 | B | A | B | A- | A | C+ | **SFSU excels in** tech support, but its wireless efforts are just so-so. In addition, its by-the-numbers Web site could use a little pizzazz. |
| 39 | **University of Scranton** www.scranton.edu | 86.74 | C | A | A | A | A | D- | **A stunning Web** portal sets this Jesuit school apart from the pack. Prospective students can personalize the site and access copious amounts of info from the admissions office. |
| 40 | **United States Military Academy** usma.edu | 86.67 | B+ | A | B | C | A+ | D+ | **All cadets must** take at least two IT courses, and classes in information warfare and computer privacy are part of the school's core curriculum. |
| 41 | **Brigham Young University** byu.edu | 86.52 | C | A | A- | A- | A | C | **Students with disabilities** benefit from BYU's extensive assistive technology, which provides blind users, for example, with Braille printers and text-to-speech software. |
| 42 | **Colorado State University** colostate.edu | 86.51 | C+ | A+ | B | B+ | B+ | A- | **Some students take** tests online; and while the school itself is nestled in the Rocky Mountain foothills, computer science students can attend class from any Web-enabled PC. |
| 43 | **West Virginia University** wvu.edu | 86.47 | B- | A | B | A- | A- | B+ | **The school is** strong across all categories and impressed us with its cutting-edge distance-learning initiative, which uses satellite technology to teach social workers across the state. |
| 44 | **Grand Valley State University** gvsu.edu | 86.27 | B- | A- | B | A- | A | B+ | **GVSU has 75** Net stations across campus, and a respectable 6:1 student to computer ratio. But computing equipment is not updated as often as at other top institutions. |
| 45 | **Arkansas State University** www.astate.edu | 85.41 | C+ | A- | B | B+ | A | A+ | **Thanks to a** superb new wireless network, Arkansas State University is making good on its new school motto: "Education anywhere, anytime." |
| 46 | **Georgia State University** www.gsu.edu | 85.21 | C | A- | A- | B+ | A | C+ | **Three out of** five faculty members use the Net to supplement class readings, discussions, and assignments. Yet only a little more than half the school's classrooms are wired. |
| 47 | **Clemson University** www.clemson.edu | 85.20 | B+ | A- | B+ | B- | C | A- | **Students can go** online to purchase meal plans and view their campus parking citations. Some extra cash should go toward tech support, which is subpar. |
| 48 | **Ohio State University*** www.osu.edu | 84.85 | B- | B+ | A | B | B- | C+ | **The Buckeyes' Web** portal, which is one of the nation's largest, includes hundreds of subsites covering every area of study, from accounting to Zulu. |
| 49 | **University of Colorado at Boulder** colorado.edu | 84.83 | C+ | A | B | A- | A- | C- | **Boulder provides all** faculty members with a new computer every three years, and it recently awarded 300 computers to students from low-income families. |

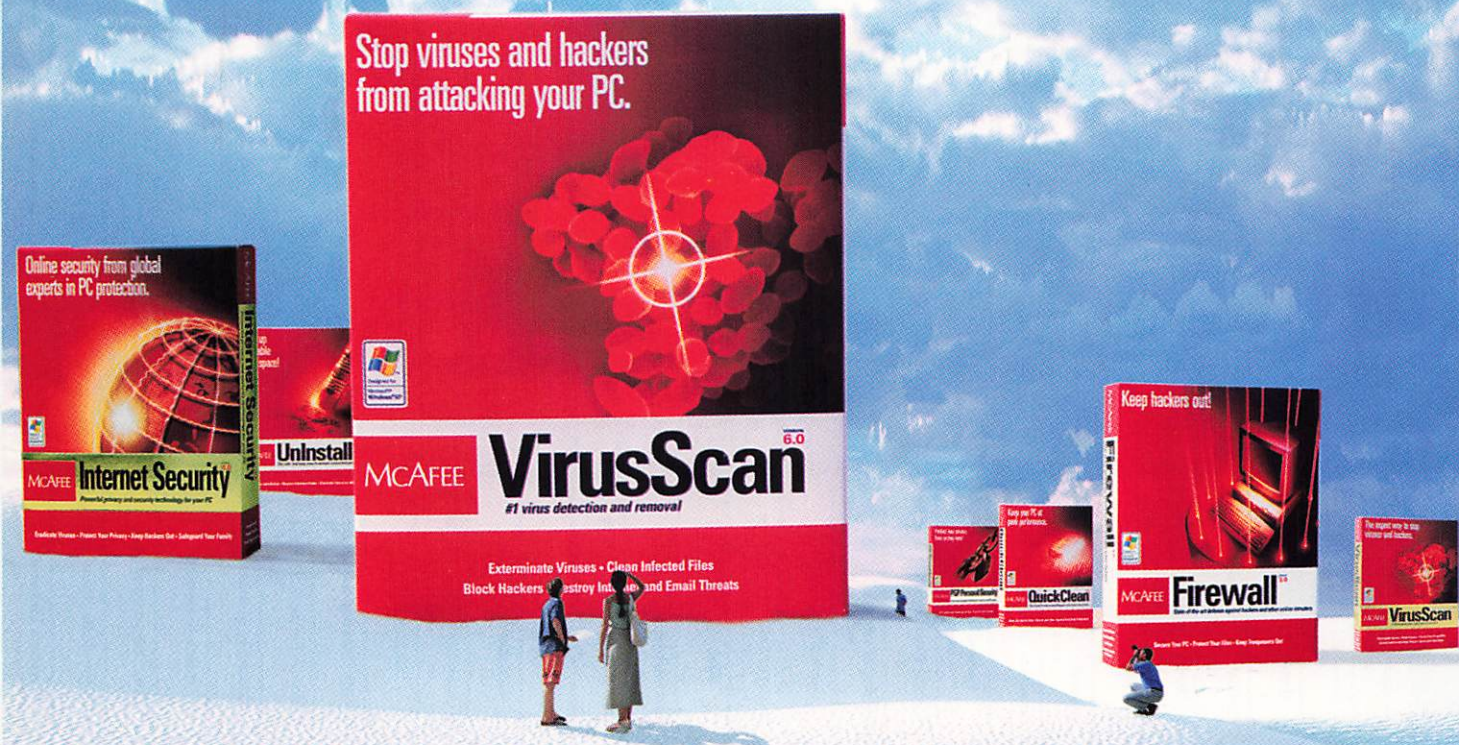
# The Key

For this year's rankings, we scored schools using six broad categories. Each category consists of four to 18 factors, which are described below. We've also provided explanations of what each letter grade means. Please note that each category contributes a different weight to the overall score; for example, a school's Infrastructure grade makes up 28 percent of its total score, while Wireless Access is worth only 5 percent.



| RANKING | UNIVERSITY | FINAL SCORE | INFRASTRUCTURE | STUDENT RESOURCES | WEB PORTAL | E-LEARNING | TECH SUPPORT | WIRELESS | NOTES & COMMENTS |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | Carnegie Mellon University<br>cmu.edu | 94.69 | A | A | A | A+ | A | A | **CMU sits atop** the rankings once again. Carnegie rules with its state-of-the-art wireless network and its integration of the Net into all aspects of campus life. |
| 2 | Stanford University*<br>stanford.edu | 92.02 | A | A- | A | A- | A | C+ | **The pride of** Palo Alto neared the top spot, despite its lackluster wireless efforts. For now, students can go wireless via Sprint PCS and other services that are not university-affiliated. |
| 3 | Georgia Institute of Technology<br>gatech.edu | 91.91 | A | A | A- | A- | A | B | **Students and faculty** benefit from a range of unique e-services, including an online library info desk that operates in real time. The school is rolling out a campuswide wireless network. |
| 4 | Dartmouth College<br>dartmouth.edu | 91.89 | A | A+ | A- | A | C | A+ | **Dartmouth requires all** incoming students to own a computer and offers the best student services in the nation. But the school is soft on weekend and late-night tech support. |
| 5 | Mass. Institute of Technology*<br>mit.edu | 91.87 | A | B+ | A | A | A | C+ | **When it comes** to Net-related research, no school compares with M.I.T. (see the Media Lab [www.media.mit.edu]). And it hosts the W3C, the group that develops Web standards. |
| 6 | Drexel University<br>www.drexel.edu | 91.84 | A | A | C+ | A | A | A+ | **Look, Ma—no** cables! Drexel was totally wireless in 2001. A mediocre Web portal, which requires a serious overhaul, kept the school from moving any higher. |
| 7 | Indiana University, Bloomington*<br>iub.edu | 91.72 | B+ | A | A | A- | A | B- | **Bloomington is the** Midwest's tech mecca. The school's Web portal is superb, as are its computer labs—even if they're not available to students 24/7. |
| 8 | University of Delaware*<br>udel.edu | 91.51 | A- | A | A- | A | A | D+ | **Although Delaware fell** six spots in this year's rankings, its Web site boasts one of the most comprehensive virtual tours we've ever seen. Wireless services, however, are MIA. |
| 9 | University of Virginia<br>virginia.edu | 91.13 | A | A | A- | A | B | C+ | **Interactive campus maps,** a superior financial aid site, and outstanding student Web services help UVA stand out—but the school's tech support isn't available on weekends. |
| 10 | New Jersey Institute of Technology<br>njit.edu | 91.11 | A- | A | B | A | A | A | **This perennially Most** Wired school offers courses in e-commerce and Web design, but the university's bland Web portal could use a little spit and polish. |
| tie 10 | SUNY at Buffalo<br>www.buffalo.edu | 91.11 | A- | A- | A- | A | A | C- | **UB's Virtual Reality** Center is emblematic of the school's commitment to emerging technologies, and the Electronic Poetry Center (wings.buffalo.edu/epc) caters to left-brained e-poets. |
| 12 | University of Idaho<br>www.uidaho.edu | 91.06 | B | A | A- | A | A | C+ | **The school's pioneering** Center for Teaching Innovation provides faculty with one-on-one consultations and encourages the use of the Web in classrooms. |
| 13 | Seton Hall University<br>www.shu.edu | 91.01 | A | A | A- | B- | A | A | **In collaboration with** AT&T, SHU has implemented a private cellular network on campus, providing cell phone services to undergraduates—including unlimited on-campus airtime. |
| 14 | Va. Polytechnic Inst. and State Univ.*<br>www.vt.edu | 90.89 | A | A | A- | A | B | C+ | **Through VTalumnNet** (alumni.iddl.vt.edu), alumni can take free, noncredit distance-learning courses in such areas as business, gardening, and architecture. |
| 15 | University of Pennsylvania<br>www.upenn.edu | 90.88 | B+ | A | A- | A | A | C- | **More than 2,000** active ports were added to classrooms this year. And thanks to the school's GreekNet service, UPenn fraternities and sororities receive high-speed Net access. |
| 16 | University of Dayton<br>www.udayton.edu | 90.67 | A- | A | B+ | A- | A | C | **Dayton's cutting-edge** Web portal offers a "virtual dorm room," which allows floormates to interact with one another prior to their arrival on campus. |
| 17 | Florida State University<br>fsu.edu | 90.62 | B | A | A | A | A | C- | **Students can check** grades, unofficial transcripts, and course schedules at kiosks located on campus. Freshmen can also pull up campus maps, in case they can't find their classes. |
| 18 | UCLA<br>www.ucla.edu | 90.56 | B+ | B+ | A | A | A | B+ | **The school's brand-new** Electronic Gradebook lets students review their grades (natch) and evaluate their academic progress, so they know which professors to e-mail with pleas for mercy. |
| 19 | Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute<br>www.rpi.edu | 90.51 | A | A | A- | A | C+ | B | **As part of its** mobile computing initiative, RPI decreased the number of public desktop computers on campus and increased the number of laptop ports in classrooms and study spaces. |
| 20 | Wake Forest University<br>wfu.edu | 90.43 | A- | A- | A | B+ | B- | A+ | **The Winston-Salem** campus hosted the October 11, 2000, presidential debate and gave TV viewers a moment-by-moment online rating of the Bush-Gore face-off (debate.wfu.edu). |
| 21 | North Carolina State University<br>ncsu.edu | 89.28 | B- | A | A- | A | A | B- | **According to** North Carolina State, its amazing technology curriculum is the reason that IBM hires more grads from here than from any other school. |
| 22 | Columbia University*<br>columbia.edu | 88.86 | B+ | A | A | A | C+ | A- | **With its innovative** use of video and audio to preserve and re-create lectures, Columbia's Center for New Media Teaching and Learning is a model for universities nationwide. |

# IF YOU'VE EVER HAD A COMPUTER PROBLEM, YOU'VE JUST FOUND THE 7 GREAT WONDERS OF THE WORLD.




History's lesson is clear—McAfee has long stood for uncompromising computer safety. The worldwide leader in anti-virus protection,* McAfee has seven unique products that bring you a full range of PC utilities. So you can keep your computer shielded from viruses, hackers, explicit Web sites, credit card theft and more. McAfee can even protect your wireless devices, Macintosh and the latest PC operating systems. Visit www.mcafee-at-home.com or your local retailer, and see how easy it is to have one of the first names in computer security be there protecting you. Just as it always has been.

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## 22% OF SCORE Web Portal

An institution's Web site is its online ambassador, addressing the school's academic goals and strengths. It's a place where the university community and prospective students can find information, such as admission requirements and a calendar of campus events. A well-designed portal is vital to students and alumni, who rely on the site to access news updates and administrative services.

**Major factors:** Design and navigability; usefulness of admissions Web site; availability of an online application; availability of information for prospective and current students, as well as parents; online alumni resources.

### Grades

**A** A work of art: the school's site offers a wide array of services, such as Web-based access to the campus Intranet, campus maps, and alumni discussion groups.

**B** The site is comprehensive, but its design is convoluted or chaotic, which makes it hard for surfers to navigate.

**C** Time for a redesign. The site lacks many key services (for example, detailed financial aid info), and what is offered is presented poorly.

**D** Surf elsewhere, because this site is a mess. It can only serve to embarrass the institution.

## 12% OF SCORE E-Learning

As a classroom tool, Internet technology has become as essential to professors as blackboard chalk. Innovations allow educators to digitally archive reading materials, build interactive courses, and create online exams (to be taken by students remotely and securely via PC). And at many universities, the Internet is fast becoming an area of study for students looking for a career in technology.

**Major factors:** Available technologies for instruction (LCD projectors, laptop stations, and course management software); Net-related courses (not including classes in engineering or basic computer science); library services available to faculty; library digital archiving projects.

### Grades

**A** Students can choose from numerous Net-related courses. Some classes are taught entirely online, and instructors have access to the latest technologies, including video teleconferencing.

**B** Many courses incorporate the Net using such tools as online chat forums. Few courses are taught entirely online. Excellent technologies are available for use in classrooms, but they may not be widely adopted by professors.

**C** Most university courses do not use the Net as a teaching aid in any capacity. Some course syllabi may be online, but you can forget about majoring—or even minoring—in most Net-related subjects.

**D** The school has been slow to integrate technology into the classroom and does not offer distance-learning courses. And no, you can't hand in your papers via e-mail.

## 11% OF SCORE Tech Support

| | | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 50 | Bridgewater State College<br>www.bridgew.edu | 84.82 | C- | A- | A- | A | A- | A- | **The school's crown** jewel: a 50,000-square-foot technology center with a 100-station computer lab and a digital video production studio. |
| 51 | University of Chicago*<br>uchicago.edu | 84.80 | B | C- | A | B+ | A | C+ | **The school's newest** computer cluster is one of a kind; it has a multimedia classroom, video-conferencing station, cybercafé, and digital media lab (intech.uchicago.edu/ccc/crerar.html). |
| 52 | University of Vermont<br>uvm.edu | 84.48 | C+ | A | B | B- | A | C | **People across the** U.S. can study in Vermont, thanks to an online-learning program that lets curious students test-drive the Web-based learning tools before signing up for courses. |
| 53 | James Madison University<br>www.jmu.edu | 84.46 | B- | A | B+ | B+ | C | D+ | **The school offers** a master's program with a concentration in information security (www.infosec.jmu.edu), and it can be completed online. Final exams are proctored in person, however. |
| 54 | University of Georgia<br>www.uga.edu | 84.32 | C- | A | A- | A- | B+ | C | **Learn how to** catheterize a patient via interactive TV. Georgia's Statewide Academic & Medical System is one of the world's largest two-way interactive video networks. |
| 55 | Princeton University*<br>princeton.edu | 83.92 | A | C- | B- | B+ | A | C+ | **Princeton alums can** access discussion groups and a comprehensive digital archive of sports games. But the Tigers lack online course registration services. |
| 56 | University of N.C. at Chapel Hill*<br>www.unc.edu | 83.85 | B+ | C+ | A- | B+ | C+ | C+ | **Online library** research tools let students access everything from ancient history texts to foreign language manuscripts from their dorm rooms, but tech support hours are limited. |
| 57 | University of Central Florida<br>www.ucf.edu | 83.72 | B | B | B- | B+ | B+ | B+ | **Students at UCF** aren't afraid to log on to go to class: 13,000 enroll in Web-delivered courses each semester. And more than half of UCF's faculty members integrate the Web into courses. |
| 58 | Harvard University*<br>www.harvard.edu | 83.69 | B+ | C+ | A- | B+ | B- | C+ | **It's one of the** most prestigious universities in the world, but Harvard is lagging in wiring its classrooms—only 50 percent of them are connected for high-speed Net access. |
| 59 | Western Washington University<br>www.wwu.edu | 83.64 | C | A+ | B | B+ | B+ | D+ | **Don't want to** hit the books before noon? Students can instantly find a class that fits into their schedule by using the interactive ClassFinder (www.wwu.edu/classfinder). |
| 60 | University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee<br>www.uwm.edu | 83.54 | C+ | C+ | A | B+ | A+ | C- | **A student-run** organization called Student Technology Services (www.uwm.edu/IMT/STS) employs over 250 undergraduates, who are paid to solve campus-related computer problems. |
| 61 | University of Florida*<br>ufl.edu | 83.33 | B+ | B | A | B | D+ | D+ | **At the nation's** sixth-largest university, tech support gets short shrift. But Gator fans are happy that all sporting events are broadcast live online (gatorzone.com/multimedia). |
| 62 | Western Michigan University<br>www.wmich.edu | 83.32 | C+ | B- | A | B- | A | D- | **WMU is connected** to a statewide gigaPOP called MichNet (www.merit.edu), which lets students and faculty surf the Web from anywhere in the state for the cost of a local call. |
| 63 | Duke University*<br>duke.edu | 83.04 | B- | B | A | B+ | C- | D+ | **Need beer** money? Duke's online Career Center (cdc.stuaff.duke.edu) connects cash-strapped students with potential employers and provides info about internships. |
| 64 | Northwestern University*<br>northwestern.edu | 82.97 | B- | C+ | A | C | A | C- | **Northwestern's portal is** among the nation's best and provides the finest calendar of events we've ever seen. It alerts students to final exams and lists lectures, films, concerts, and more. |
| 65 | Western Carolina University<br>www.wcu.edu | 82.91 | B- | C | B+ | A- | A | C+ | **WCU is experimenting** with wireless handheld devices in the classroom. Students and faculty use PDAs for word-processing, taking notes, and conducting on-the-spot library research. |
| 66 | University of Maryland<br>www.umd.edu | 82.77 | B- | B+ | B+ | B- | B | C+ | **Students have the** option of granting or denying parents access to grades and course schedules, which are posted to the university Web site. |
| 67 | Quinnipiac University<br>www.quinnipiac.edu | 82.54 | B- | B+ | C+ | B+ | A- | C+ | **School of Business** freshmen are required to own a wireless-ready laptop. The school plans to expand wireless coverage and make online tuition-payment options available this fall. |
| 68 | The University of Texas at Austin*<br>www.utexas.edu | 82.38 | B+ | C- | A | A- | C- | C- | **Toss out your No. 2** pencils. UT's Distance Education Center (www.utexas.edu/cee/dec) is among the best in the world and lets students attend class and take exams entirely online. |
| 69 | Yale University*<br>www.yale.edu | 82.22 | B | C- | A | C+ | B+ | C | **Yale's portal is** a work of art, but the school lacks online registration. There's no centralized help desk, either, but student computing assistants are available in each residential college. |
| 70 | George Washington University<br>www.gwu.edu | 82.21 | B | C- | A | D+ | A- | A+ | **The school has** no digital archiving project, and Net-related courses are available only as part of the school's certificate or graduate programs—thus the D+. |
| 71 | California Polytechnic State U.<br>www.calpoly.edu | 82.20 | C+ | B- | B+ | B+ | A | D | **Cal Poly's curriculum** is heavily geared to students looking for a career in applied technical fields. But be prepared: Freshmen must declare a major from Day One. |
| 72 tie | University of Arkansas<br>uark.edu | 81.96 | C | B | B+ | B- | A | C+ | **Hard numbers:** Arkansas provides one computer for every 8.3 students, and 40 percent of them are available to students 24/7. Solid numbers—but only average for this list. |
| 72 tie | Tulane University<br>www.tulane.edu | 81.96 | C | C+ | A | A | A- | C- | **The university site** recently received a face-lift; this fall, Web-based registration will be available, and by January, 75 percent of the campus green space will have wireless coverage. |
| 74 | Miami University of Ohio<br>muohio.edu | 81.93 | C+ | B+ | C+ | A | A- | C- | **Miami of Ohio** offers excellent tech resources and provides some unique Net-related courses, including Economics of the Internet and Social Psychology of Cyberspace. |
| 75 | Oregon State University<br>orst.edu | 81.89 | C+ | B+ | A- | B+ | C- | C+ | **The IT department** provides 200 free courses in technology and offers live online help. The school's real strength lies in its distance-learning program, which offers courses in 30 fields. |
| 76 | Syracuse University<br>www.syr.edu | 81.79 | C+ | C+ | B+ | A | A | D- | **For high-speed** Net access, off-campus students must connect to AOL Time Warner's RoadRunner cable service (at reduced prices). As for wireless service...keep dreaming. |

For many students—especially those prone to such accidents as deleting homework assignments and research papers from their computers—no university service is as critical as tech support. Top schools provide 24/7 service, as well as on-site support and training.

**Major factors:** Hours of free technical support; Web-based technical support; on-site technical support; human-taught computer and Internet orientation for students and faculty; availability of trained student employees or volunteers in dormitory housing.

### Grades

**A** More than 14 hours of support are available per day. Many top schools pay student advisers to handle weekend or late-night emergencies in dorms and provide free Net instruction.

**B** Tech support hours are respectable, but the school skimps on all-important weekend hours. Like "A" schools, the institution provides students and faculty with free tech instruction.

**C** Don't expect live help when your system crashes at 3 A.M. Also, Net and PC training may be unavailable or inaccessible for students and faculty.

**D** Pray that you can make sense of your computer manual. At best, tech support is available from 9 to 5 on weekdays. Expect to haul your system to the computer lab for repairs.

## 5% OF SCORE Wireless Access

While most major universities and colleges offer high-speed Net access in dorm rooms, only a select few have rolled out wireless networks. Though this category counted the least in our rankings, it's a good indicator of whether a school is an early adopter of new technologies.

**Major factors:** Availability of wireless data networking to institution buildings and grounds, including on-campus housing and academic buildings.

### Grades

**A** The school is a wireless pioneer; access is already available in many academic buildings, and plans are in place to expand coverage to the rest of the campus this year.

**B** Some buildings on campus offer wireless access; these usually include the library and computing center.

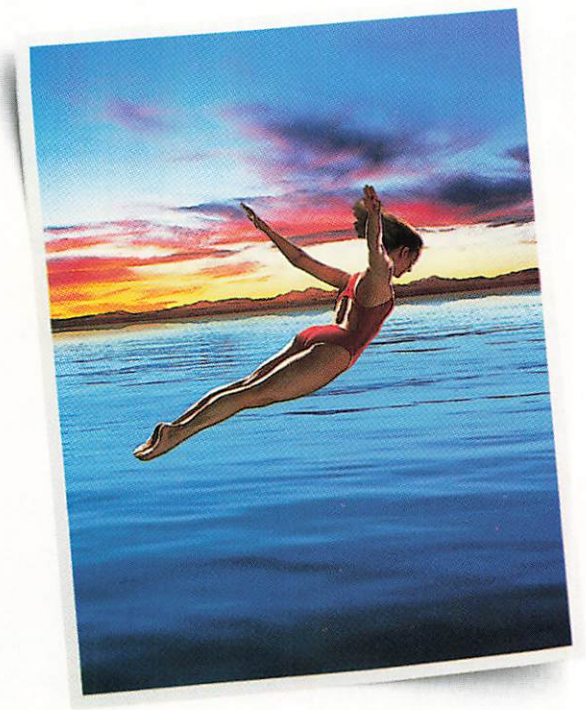
**C** Trial-only, folks. The school has just begun to test the wireless waters, and a few lucky students may get to play beta-tester.

**D** Mired in wires: The school has no plans to develop a wireless network before the fall 2002 semester.

THE *YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE* SURVEY WAS CONDUCTED IN PARTNERSHIP WITH PETERSON'S, A THOMSON LEARNING COMPANY—THE NATION'S LEADING PROVIDER OF EDUCATION INFORMATION ONLINE, VIA WWW.PETERSONS.COM AND IN PRINT. ALL 3,703 OPEN-ENROLLMENT, ACCREDITED, UNDERGRADUATE TWO-YEAR AND FOUR-YEAR INSTITUTIONS IN THE U.S. WERE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS YEAR'S SURVEY. PETERSON'S COLLECTED DATA VIA AN ONLINE SURVEY INSTRUMENT. *YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE* STAFF CONDUCTED FOLLOW-UP INDEPENDENT RESEARCH FOR A SELECT GROUP OF SCHOOLS. RESULTS WERE THEN TABULATED AND REVIEWED BY THE EDITORS OF *YAHOO! INTERNET LIFE*, WHO DETERMINED THE RANKINGS THAT APPEAR IN THIS ARTICLE. PETERSON'S DID NOT PARTICIPATE IN THE INDEPENDENT RESEARCH EFFORTS, DID NOT DEVELOP THE RANKING METHODOLOGY, AND WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE RANKING PROCESS.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 77 | **Cornell University*** cornell.edu | 81.71 | B- | C+ | B+ | B+ | B | C | **Cornell's Online** Cyber Tower (cybertower.cornell.edu) is a collection of faculty-designed classrooms where students can interact with professors online and view streams of lectures. |
| 78 | **Binghamton University** www.binghamton.edu | 81.63 | B- | C- | A- | C+ | A | C+ | **Each dorm has** a live-in tech-support person available catch-as-catch-can anytime of the night or day. Data projectors in classrooms will eventually render blackboards obsolete. |
| 79 | **Elon University** www.elon.edu | 81.60 | B- | C- | B | A- | A | C+ | **Elon students** looked at the Net habits of 24 families in the North Carolina town. The study's in-depth results are published at (www.elon.edu/pew/oneweek). |
| 80 | **SUNY at Geneseo** www.geneseo.edu | 81.57 | C | B- | B | B | A | A- | **Ninety percent of** students bring a PC; residence halls are equipped with PCs, CD-RW drives, laser printers, and scanners for the other 10 percent. |
| 81 | **University of Oregon*** www.uoregon.edu | 81.55 | B | B | B- | B | B- | B- | **This is the** only school to score straight B's. While it may not excel in any single category, it's home to the forward-looking Advanced Network Technology Center (antc.uoregon.edu). |
| 82 | **Santa Clara University** scu.edu | 81.47 | C | B- | B+ | B+ | A | D | **This summer,** the school installed a gigabit Net connection. It's been busy upgrading student resource services as well, with online registration and grades available later this year. |
| 83 | **University of Nebraska at Omaha** www.unomaha.edu | 81.33 | B+ | C- | B | A- | A | C+ | **At press time,** the school announced a project to provide 100MB of storage to students—a generous gift that gives students a larger canvas for expressing themselves online. |
| 84 | **Michigan State University*** www.msu.edu | 81.32 | C+ | A | B- | B- | C+ | C | **This fall, all** students entering MSU are required to have a computer with Web access. The requirement is necessary because of heavy use of new online library resources and class forums. |
| 85 | **Marist College** www.marist.edu | 81.13 | B+ | C | B | B- | A | D- | **The new $25** million library features IBM digital technology, which lets students access material stored on the college's mainframe. The school forbids file-sharing services. |
| 86 | **University of California, Riverside** ucr.edu | 81.10 | C+ | B | B- | C- | A- | B | **Computer science** students are studying ways to cut the amount of electricity used by power-hungry computer networks; as for its own network, UCR provides one port for every student. |
| 87 | **Hofstra University** www.hofstra.edu | 80.97 | C+ | C+ | B+ | A | A | D- | **In addition to** a fully computerized astronomy lab, Hofstra opened a computer center with 1,100 laptop ports, along with advanced multimedia classrooms designed for collaboration. |
| 88 | **Villanova University*** www.villanova.edu | 80.91 | B+ | C | B+ | A | D+ | D- | **The My Classroom** portal lets undergrads create a personal home page, with links to course materials, class chatrooms and mailing lists, and rosters (which include student photos). |
| 89 | **Texas A&M University** tamu.edu | 80.88 | C+ | D | A | A- | A | D- | **The university has** been slow to adopt Web-based registration, but it has one of the country's most extensive online scholarship applications (faid.tamu.edu). |
| 90 | **University of South Dakota** usd.edu | 80.82 | C+ | C+ | A- | B- | A | D- | **USD is the first** university to provide all incoming freshmen with Palm handhelds, which are being subsidized by the university and come bundled with reference tools. |
| 91 | **Baylor University** baylor.edu | 80.80 | C- | B- | B- | A | A | C+ | **Baylor is developing** a network that will link courses, assignments, grades, and other services. By fall 2003, the school plans to provide wireless access to off-campus housing. |
| 92 | **University of Miami** www.miami.edu | 80.69 | C | C+ | C+ | A | B+ | A+ | **The University of** Miami has one of the best wireless networks in the nation. Its Wireless Cloud system covers the entire campus, including outdoor areas for surfing poolside. |
| 93 | **University of Notre Dame*** nd.edu | 80.66 | C | A | A- | C- | C- | D- | **The central help** desk is unavailable on weekends and after 5 P.M. weekdays; when it is open, help is provided only for certain applications. File-sharing programs are banned. |
| 94 | **University of Kentucky** uky.edu | 80.61 | B- | C | C- | A+ | A | C+ | **The FACTS Center** at UK is beyond compare. It provides faculty with tech-based instructional tools and puts Web designers and multimedia programmers at professors' disposal. |
| 95 | **East Carolina University** www.ecu.edu | 80.49 | B | C- | A- | B- | B | A- | **In some classrooms,** students can wirelessly view Web-based class material on PDAs; the university is developing a system that will allow students to get their grades using cell phones. |
| 96 | **Southern Methodist University** www.smu.edu | 80.41 | C+ | C+ | B- | B+ | B+ | C | **Prospective students** can take a virtual tour of the campus or view live Web cam images to see what the grounds look like at different times of year (i.e., sunny, sunny, sunny, and sunny). |
| 97 | **Valdosta State University** valdosta.edu | 80.29 | B | C+ | B+ | C+ | C | C+ | **This Georgia** university spent $8 million to update its technology infrastructure. Tech support and student resources should be the next areas to receive funding. |
| 98 | **University of Illinois, Chicago*** uic.edu | 80.15 | B+ | C+ | C+ | B+ | C+ | C | **UIC is a partner** in the Illinois Virtual Campus (www.ivc.illinois.edu), a program designed to introduce students and community residents to the benefits of online learning. |
| 99 | **Pace, New York City Campus** pace.edu | 80.08 | C+ | A- | C- | A- | B+ | D+ | **Nonprofits such as** the American Red Cross are the beneficiaries of Pace's technology largesse; they receive services including a T-1 connection to the school's network backbone. |
| 100 | **Minnesota State U., Mankato** mnsu.edu | 80.02 | C+ | C- | B- | B+ | A | A | **Through a partnership** with Nokia, MSU received 200 Net-ready cell phones and a WAP server. It's employing the technology to study the use of mobile phones on campus. |

Scores reflect technology resources as of Spring 2001. *The school either declined to participate in our survey or failed to meet the survey deadline. In these cases, *Y-Life* independently gathered data, without Peterson's assistance. Go to (wiredcolleges.com) for more information. ★Indicates the highest score in this category.



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*Prints 4" x 6" color photos in just 45 seconds.**
*Available now for only $199.***

*The Canon S800 Bubble Jet™ Photo Printer.*
*Prints 8" x 10" color photos in just 2 minutes.****
*Available now for only $299.***

Elegantly engineered, the S600 and S800 printers represent a major leap in ink jet technology. Showcases for innovation, these printers offer an unrivaled combination of quality, speed and cost-saving performance. The breathtaking quality is due to Canon's advanced MicroFine Droplet Technology,™ an innovation that produces ink droplets just 5 picoliters in size and places them with ultimate precision – without sacrificing speed. The result is brilliant 2400 x 1200 color dpi prints that will last up to 25 years without fading.† And since Canon's PhotoRecord™ software is included in the box, printing photos has never been easier. Besides the quality and speed superiority, it's Canon's exclusive money-saving individual ink tank system that really sets these printers apart from the pack. With separate ink tanks, you no longer have to replace the entire cartridge when a single color, like blue, runs out. You simply replace the blue. **It's technology that makes sense.** For more details about Canon digital imaging solutions, visit us at www.usa.canon.com/consumer or call 1-800-OK-CANON.

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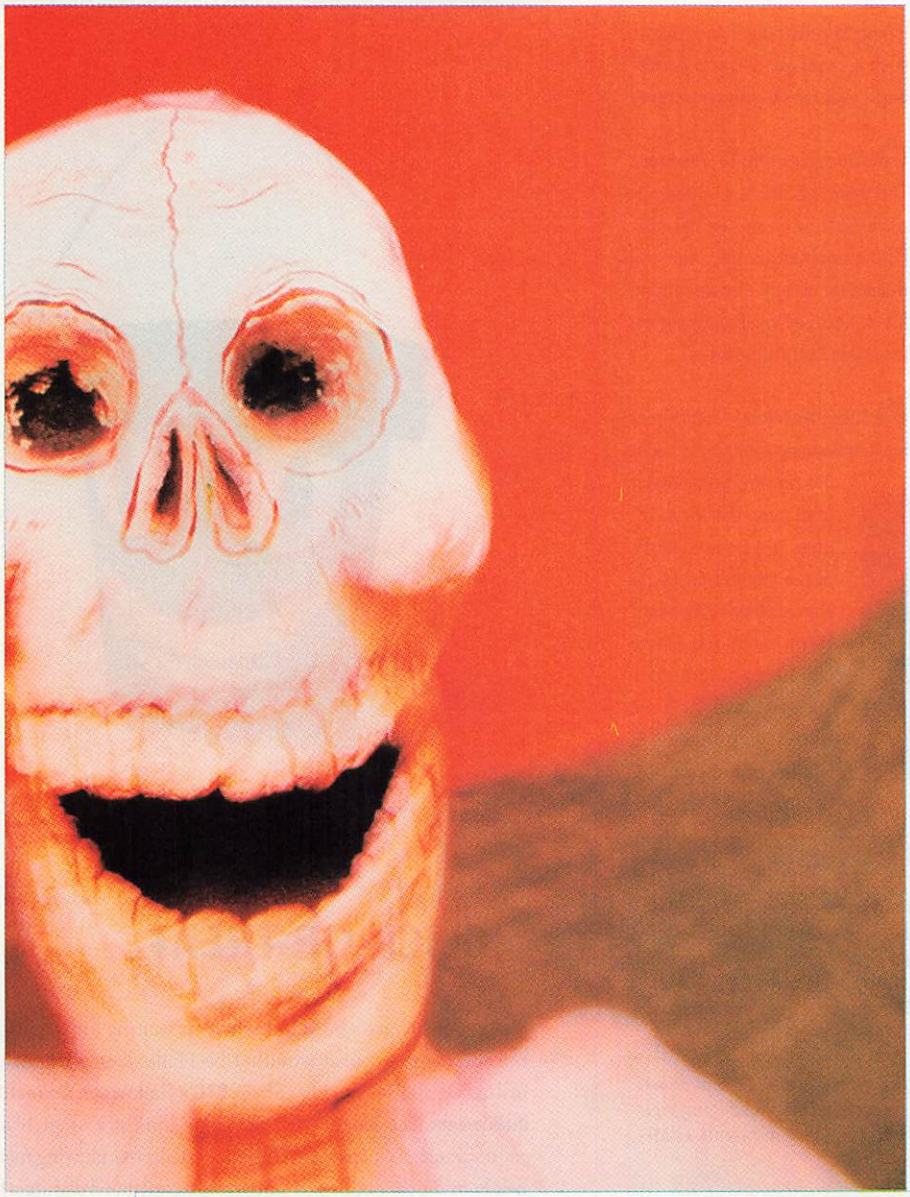
# web guide

WHERE TO, HOW TO, BEST OF: OUR MONTHLY GUIDE TO LIFE ON THE WEB EDITED BY CREE McCREE



DAVID HISER/GETTYONE

## A SPIRIT OF CELEBRATION

It comes on the cusp of Halloween, but Mexico's Day of the Dead has nothing to do with spooky tricks. It's a time to fete the spirits with earthly treats, which families share with their dearly departed at graveside feasts. Explore this colorful tradition using our guide on page 119. Want to learn more about the holiday—or any other topic? This month's Web Lab on page 122 points you to the Net's best research sites.

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web guide

# new, notable & fun

WHAT'S HOT — AND COOL — ON THE WEB THIS MONTH

BY MEAGHAN O'NEILL

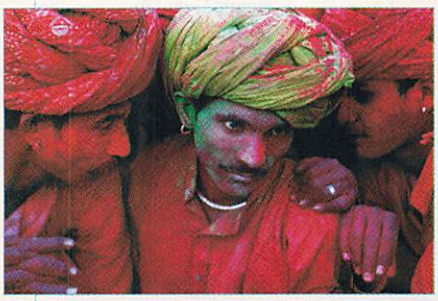
## RELAUNCH

**MSN Money** Like your CNBC online? MSN recently joined with the financial news network to provide exclusive content, breaking market news, and investing advice. Use the new StockScouter tool to assess a stock's performance potential. **[moneycentral.com]**

**CBS HealthWatch by Medscape** Those seeking health care information will appreciate the site's new Smart Search engine, which enables users to find the most relevant data by specifying factors such as age, gender, and knowledge level. **[cbshealthwatch.com]**

**Amazon.com: In Theaters** The giant e-tailer has added another category: movie listings. Find customer ratings, view the trailers for current and upcoming films, and get local show times. **[amazon.com/intheaters]**

**NikonNet** New features here make uploading, storing, and editing photographs easier than ever. Use your images to create e-cards, photo albums, and slide shows. Need inspiration? Nikon Centre showcases famous photographers such as Steve McCurry, whose work appears at left. **[nikonnet.com]**



## PORTAL PATROL

**Yahoo! Shopping [shopping.yahoo.com]** customers can now get basic product information from **Consumer Reports Online [consumerreports.org]** free of charge, or pay $3 for 30-day access to in-depth data for comparison shopping. Ready to place an order? The new Timex Internet Messenger watch from **Yahoo! Mobile [mobile.yahoo.com]** offers "Web-to-wrist connectivity."

Although quite similar to 6.0, version 7.0 of **AOL [aol.com]** does have some new features that fans of instant messaging will especially enjoy, such as the ability to converse in private chatrooms with multiple users at the same time.

Search more than 150 million pictures on the Web using **Google Image Search [images.google.com]**. You can opt to disable the filtering-out of adult content, and you can also narrow your findings by specifying the file formats you prefer.

Looking to one-up its competition, **MSN [msn.com]** will enhance its instant-messaging service when it debuts WindowsXP on October 25. The new Windows Messenger will give users the ability to hold audio and video conferences.

## SPOTLIGHT

## CLICK-OR-TREAT

You may have a bowl full of sweets waiting for the neighborhood cuties, but it wouldn't be Halloween without the holiday's shadowy side. Shop **ETC's Halloween Collectible [halloweencollectible.com]** for reproductions of vintage black-cat noisemakers, papier-mâché jack-o'-lanterns, glowing melon heads, and other eerie fare apparently conceived during a full moon. Need styling tips? **Gothic Martha Stewart [toreadors.com/martha]** offers "DIY home decor for the morbidly inclined." Once you've festooned your house with dead roses, you're ready for a masquerade ball. Find outfits for yourself, the kids, and even the dog at **BuyCostumes.com**. Prefer to brood alone with your PC? Browse **The West Wing: The Works of Edward Gorey [goreyography.com/west/west.htm]** for interviews with, and whimisical illustrations by, the late master of the macabre.

MEN: STEVE McCURRY; GOODY PAIL: JAY ZUKERKORN

## SPORTS

**MegaSoccer.com** Look for coverage of your favorite teams at this soccer search engine, which also acts as a video news service and an in-depth source for stats. With information from 45 countries, more than 80 leagues, and 1,000-plus teams, the site provides results, tables, and live scores for matches worldwide. **[megasoccer.com]**

**The Volvo Ocean Race** Formerly known as the Whitbread Round the World Race, this global regatta tests the skills of the world's finest sailors from September through June. Visit the site for news, histories, and photos of the boats and their courageous crews. **[www.volvooceanrace.org]**

## ARTS & LEISURE

**Artforum** In addition to offering selected articles from its print counterpart, *Artforum International*, this mecca for contemporary art keeps you abreast of daily industry news, posts global gallery reviews, and hosts a symposium on major issues. Use the museums guide to find exhibitions worldwide. **[artforum.com]**

**WMOB: The Wiretap Network: The Frank & Fritzy Show** Caught on tape by the FBI and brought to you by **The Smoking Gun [thesmokinggun.com]**, these two gangsters converse in witty, grammatically challenged language that's fun to listen to, you know what I mean? For your enjoyment, TSG has also included an illustrated cast of some choice characters who pop up in several conversations. **[wmob.com]**

## MEDIA

**ConsciousPla.net** Dedicated to helping people find the medium "that most enhances their lives," this free biweekly newsletter tracks quality programs being aired on TV and radio stations such as A&E, the Learning Channel, and NPR, saving you from scouring the listings. **[consciouspla.net]**

**The Mighty Organ** This zine's dispatches "from the personal front" come from as far afield as Afghanistan, and from as close to home as the writer's backyard (see the column "Sex 'n' Slugs"). You'll also find poetry, theater reviews, and sundry other musings produced by "people who normally get paid for what they write." **[themightyorgan.com]**

## TRAVEL

**EscapeArtist.com** Expat wanna-bes will find a trove of useful resources here, including employment opportunities, embassy locations, and offshore investing information, plus reading material from magazines such as *Escape From America* and *International Living*. **[escapeartist.com]**

**SEAEK** When Eugene Kuo, an amateur photographer, left his job to travel throughout Southeast Asia, he "wasn't searching for anything in particular." What he found, however, was a provocative array of color-saturated images, such as his shot of the Petronas Towers in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia (below). **[226-design.com/seaek]**

BASEBALL PLAYER (ROGER CLEMENS): AP/WIDE WORLD PHOTOS; PETRONAS TOWERS: EUGENE KUO

## THE FAT PIPE

NEWS AND VIEWS FOR HIGH-SPEED SURFERS

# LET THE GAMES BEGIN

As soon as **ESPN [espn.com]** announced that it would create online programming for high-speed Internet users and call it ESPN Broadband, cable operators started to gripe. "Wait a second," they retorted. "You want to use our infrastructure to do an end run around us, directly streaming to sports fans over the Net the same content we pay you for?"

"Well, sort of," replied ESPN, "although much of the content will be recycled from earlier broadcasts. Besides, this is a chance for you to persuade more customers to upgrade to cable modem service."

And so it goes in the age of convergence. When the squabbling settles down, watch for more video highlights (World Series highlights, perhaps?) and news briefs at ESPN.com.

**EDITING SUITE** Sony Pictures Digital Entertainment's new **Screenblast [screenblast.com]** invites creative types to use online audio and video editing tools to create music, animation, and short films and share them publicly. (Sony will monitor the creations for offensive material.) You can start from scratch or use ready-made content as your launching pad. Perhaps hoping to turn casual experimenters into addicts, Sony will provide—for a fee—additional online storage space and better editing tools. **DON WILLMOTT**

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**www.sony.com/clie**
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**www.voodoomusicfest.com**
The Voodoo Music Experience October 27, 2001. Bands include: Tool, The Black Crows, Snoop Dog, Missy Elliott, Better Than Ezra, G. Love & Special Sauce, Gov't Mule, Spooks, John Mayer, Will Hope.

**www.smartdisk.com**
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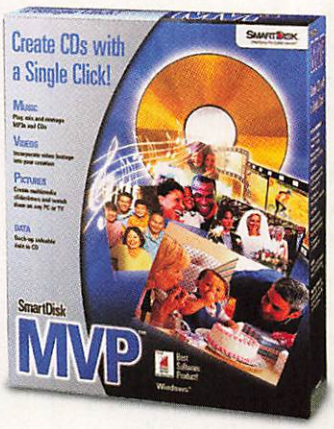


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ROCK STAR
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www.rockstarmovie.com
America Online Keyword: Rock Star

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BELAIR ENTERTAINMENT

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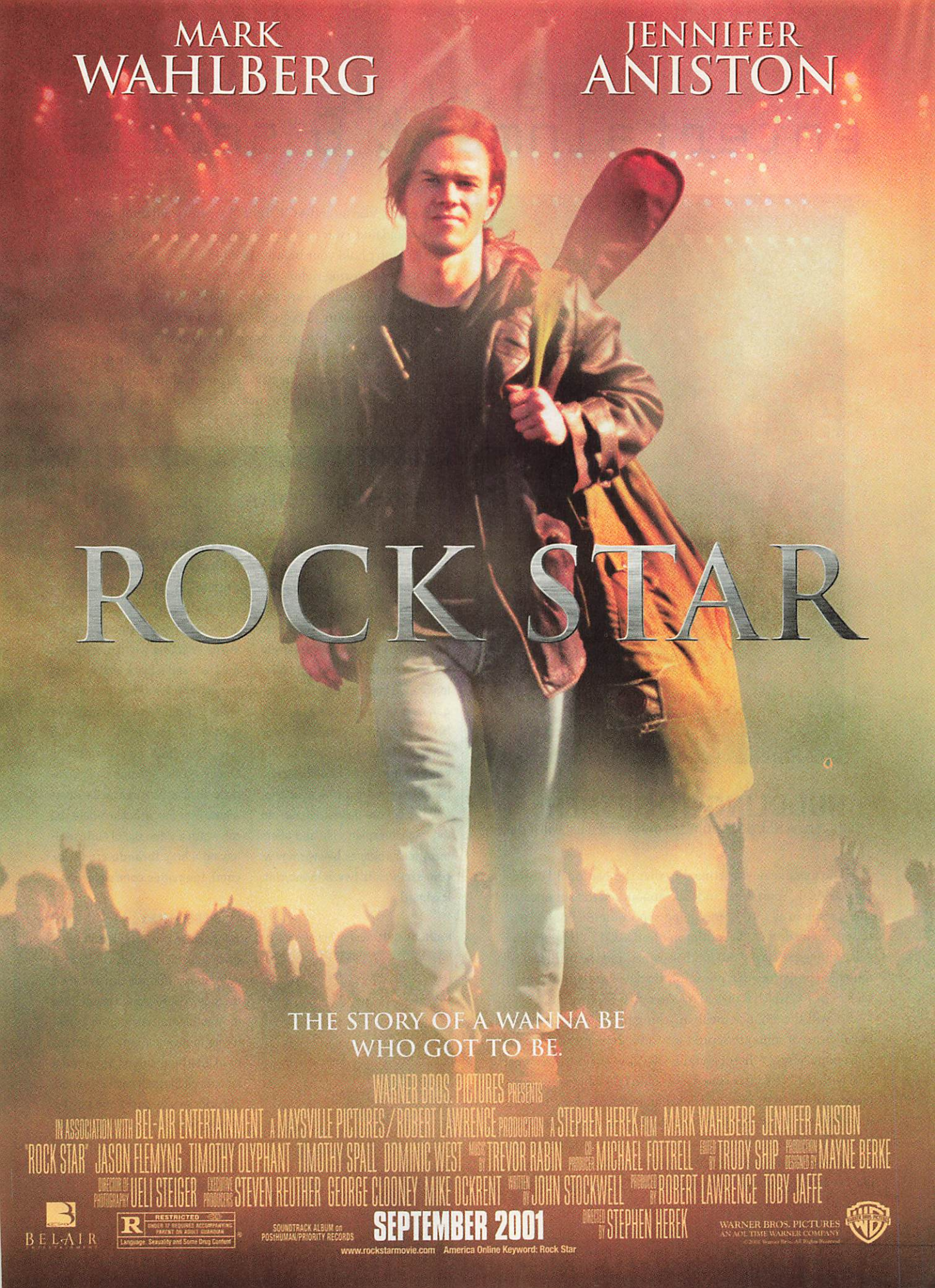
ROCK STAR, In Theaters September 7.


MARK WAHLBERG
JENNIFER ANISTON
ROCK STAR
THE STORY OF A WANNA BE
WHO GOT TO BE.
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"ROCK STAR" JASON FLEMYNG TIMOTHY OLYPHANT TIMOTHY SPALL DOMINIC WEST MUSIC BY TREVOR RABIN CO-PRODUCER MICHAEL FOTTRELL EDITED BY TRUDY SHIP PRODUCTION DESIGNED BY MAYNE BERKE
DIRECTOR OF PHOTOGRAPHY UELI STEIGER EXECUTIVE PRODUCERS STEVEN REUTHER GEORGE CLOONEY MIKE OCKRENT WRITTEN BY JOHN STOCKWELL PRODUCED BY ROBERT LAWRENCE TOBY JAFFE
BEL-AIR
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SOUNDTRACK ALBUM on POSTHUMAN/PRIORITY RECORDS
SEPTEMBER 2001
DIRECTED BY STEPHEN HEREK
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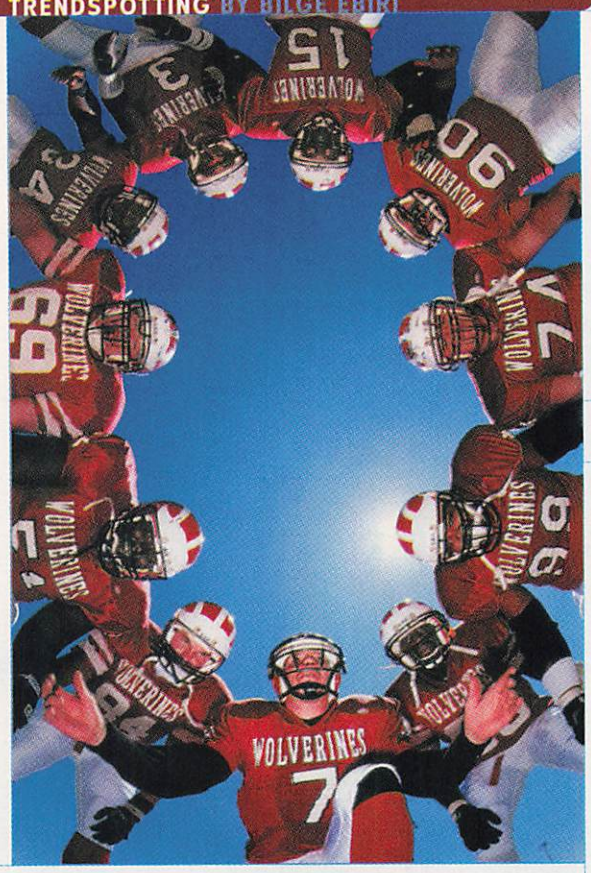
TRENDSPOTTING BY BILGE EBIRI




## HUDDLING TOGETHER

A new NFL deal promises much. But what will it deliver?

The massive new partnership that the National Football League, AOL, SportsLine, and CBS announced this summer will surely result in all sorts of intriguing opportunities. But make no mistake: The deal is all about promotion. AOL and SportsLine will get plugged during pro football games, and the NFL will get touted on properties that previously trucked little with the sport, such as MTV, which is owned by Viacom, CBS's parent.

So, will the alliance mean anything to the average sports fan in terms of content? SportsLine.com—currently the second most popular sports hub, behind ESPN.com (whose three-year deal with the NFL just expired)—couldn't possibly provide any more statistics and news updates than it already does. Besides, it doesn't need a special deal with the league to do that. What the NFL affiliation could mean, though, according to SportsLine founder and chief executive Mike Levy, is better access to players and coaches for chats and other types of online events.

With so many big companies involved—including, ironically, media rivals Viacom and AOL Time Warner—you'd think somebody would find a way to start regularly streaming football games online. Don't hold your breath. The NFL keeps tight control over its broadcasting rights. "The dollars generated right now by television broadcasts are so great that there's no chance of that happening soon," Levy says. But he does believe that the technology, at least, is worth giving a trial run. "We might try streaming some NFL Europe games, which you can't see in the U.S., to test the waters," he says. For now, all the players in the huddle are getting ready to market their brands.

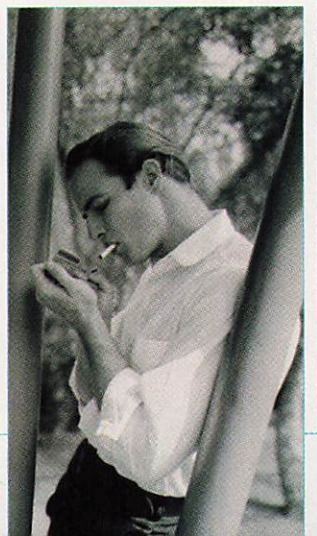
POP CULTURE

## HOLLYWOOD REBELS

### BEAUTIFUL LOSER

**Montgomery Clift; The Montgomery Clift Shrine** "If a man doesn't go his own way, he's nothing," said Monty Clift as Private Prewitt in *From Here to Eternity*. Considered by many to be the inspiration for bad boys Marlon Brando and James Dean, he began as a stage actor and avoided Hollywood until it crawled to him, begging. Despite his success, Clift was a tortured soul. The official shrine has great quotes and a few good photos. The fan site delves deeper into the tragic thespian's life and offers many soulful pictures. **[www.cmgww.com/stars/clift]; [www.montyclift.ic24.net]**

**RADICAL CHIC** Marlon Brando.



### THE WILD ONE

**A Tribute to Marlon Brando; Brandoland** "What are you rebelling against, Johnny?" "Whaddaya got?" So Marlon Brando famously replied in *The Wild One*, which made jeans, a T-shirt, and a black leather jacket the uniform for antiestablishment teens. The tribute site is loaded with posters and photos from then and now. (Talk about a transformation!) Organized like a theme park, Brandoland's attractions include the *Apocalypse Now* Jungle Safari, where you can watch a video clip of Kurtz swallowing a bug. **[brando.crosscity.com]; [geocities.com/wcleere]**

### REBEL GIANT

**James Dean.com** The ultimate renegade took his own advice: "Dream as if you'll live forever. Live as if you'll die today." Dean starred in just three movies before crashing on a California highway at age 24, but his brief, startling career triggered a teen revolt that still hasn't stopped. The official site, sanctioned by his family, features great childhood photos and reminiscing, dating back to church plays in Fairmount, Indiana. **[jamesdean.com]**

PAMELA DES BARRES

HUDDLE: WILLIAM R. SALLAZ/GETTYONE; BRANDO: CORBIS BETTMANN

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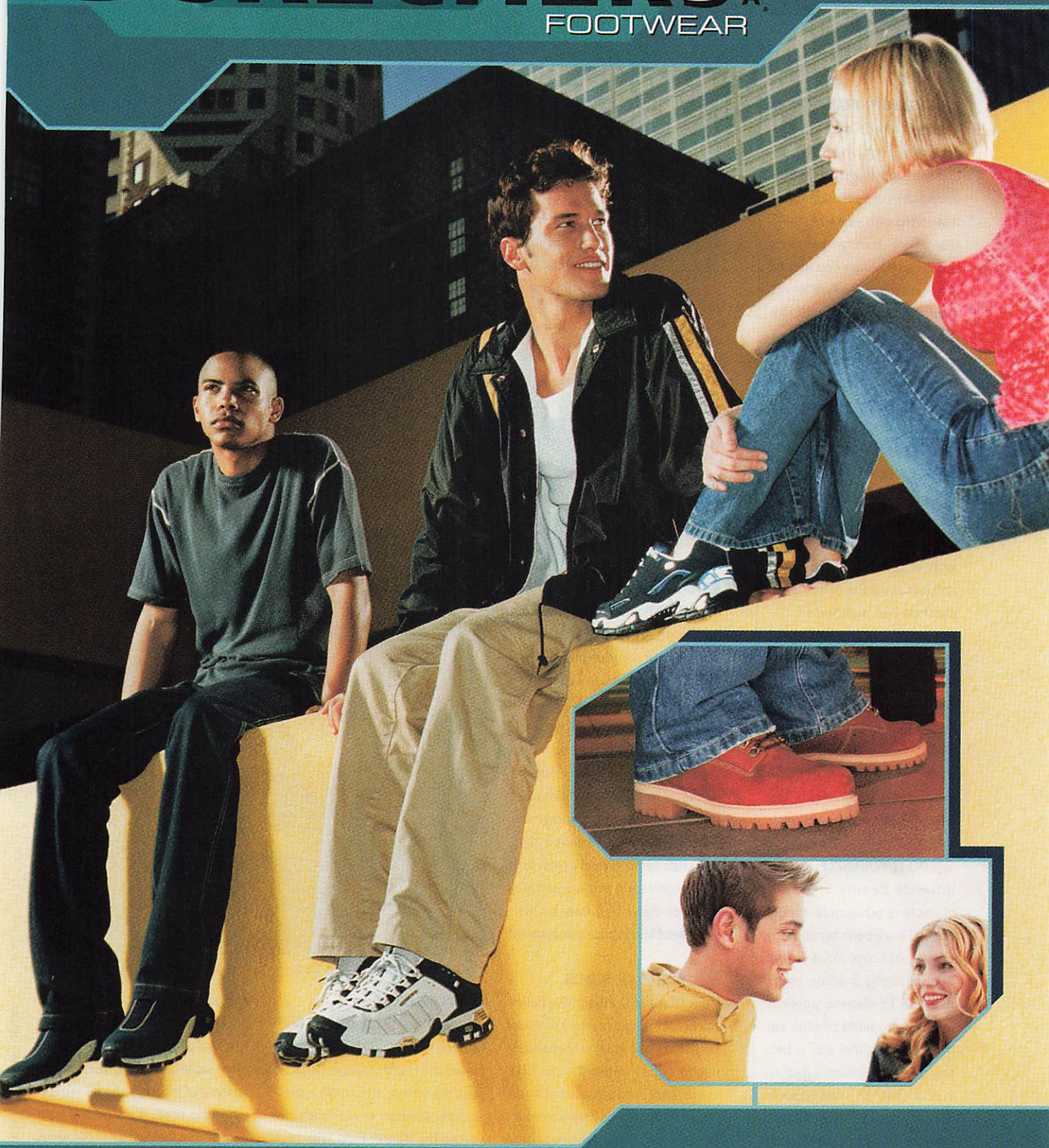





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## TELEVISION

### REALITY TV

**STRANGER THAN FICTION**

**Reality Blurred** Couch voyeurs can't get enough of watching ordinary people thrust into antagonizing situations. Producers have responded with a slew of reality shows. Bone up on new programs and revisit the ones you love to hate—including *The Real World, Temptation Island,* and *The Mole*—at Reality Blurred. Along with news, the weblog offers links to official sites and episode recaps. **[realityblurred.com]**

**TRIBAL WARFARE**

**SurvivorNews.net** Gilligan and crew never churned up so much controversy as the castaways found on Mark Burnett's runaway success. SurvivorNews.net isn't just about the episodes on the show that launched a thousand imitators. It's also about the people: their backgrounds, game tactics, legal wrangling, and endorsements. Delve into the series' third sojourn, *Survivor: Africa,* and keep tabs on what past players are doing to avoid being voted out of the limelight. **[survivornews.net]**

**DO IT YOURSELF**

**Ultimate Reality** Since our brains (and our remote-control fingers) have been numbed by *Chains of Love, Boot Camp, Fear,* and *Big Brother,* aren't *we*—the TV-viewing public—the best prepared to write our own reality scripts? A&E is betting on it with *Ultimate Reality,* in which each of 10 participants will carry out a self-designed experience of a lifetime—and record it with a handheld digital camera, for our viewing pleasure. Can we survive much more of this? **[ultimatereality.tv]** HEIDI LAFLECHE

## GUEST GUIDE

### HALLOWEEN QUEEN ELVIRA

Cassandra Peterson, better known as Elvira, reigns over the Shock and Rock Revue at Knott's Scary Farm in Buena Park, California, every Halloween, and she spends many midnight hours trolling the Net for wicked treats. Beyond the tricks designed to spook you at her own interactive site, **Elvira, Mistress of the Dark [elvira.com]**, she recommends these horror-ific haunts:

**HALLOWEEN ONLINE** This is the deepest site in the world about my favorite holiday. You could spend the rest of your life here—finding out how to decorate your house for Halloween, what costume to wear, and what food to make for parties. **[halloween-online.com]**

**MARTHASTEWART.COM** That Martha! You can't pull one over on her. In the Halloween section, she actually shows you how to make spooky shadows on your wall. Bitch! I'm always saying, "I wish I'd thought of that first." **[marthastewart.com]**

**DEAD PEOPLE SERVER** Find out if an actor is dead—or just hasn't worked in a long time. Be sure to click on Find Famous Graves to see where scare-meister Edgar Allan Poe is buried. **[dpsinfo.com/dps.html]** PAMELA DES BARRES

## MOVIES

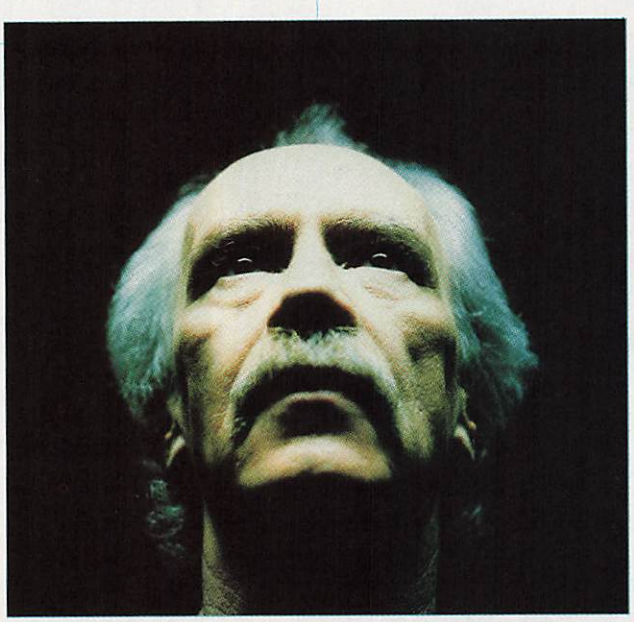
### HORROR DIRECTORS

**BOGEYMAN**

**www.TheOfficialJohnCarpenter.com** Hollywood's most successful horror film director is a true original. Michael Myers, the pasty-masked madman of *Halloween,* was merely a warm-up act for a unique repertoire of villains that ranged from a homicidal Plymouth Fury to a nebulous expanse of fog. This site features a choice selection of reviews, cast bios, production stills, and sound clips, and adds some special treats, such as foreign movie posters and storyboards drawn by Carpenter himself. **[theofficialjohncarpenter.com]**

**PAINTER OF BLOOD**

**Dark Dreams** Dubbed "the Italian Hitchcock" for his mastery of visual language, Dario Argento is a painterly director whose surrealist horror flicks are as likely to be screened at an art house as a drive-in. Immerse yourself in his nightmare imagery at Dark Dreams, where you can download wallpaper, video clips, production stills, and haunting music from the sound tracks. **[darkdreams.org]**



**PRINCE OF DARKNESS** John Carpenter made homicidal mania mainstream.

**GORE LORE**

**Herschell Gordon Lewis: The Godfather of Gore** Long before Michael Myers and Freddy Krueger began to stalk the screen, an English professor turned budget movie director invented the slasher flick. With such titles as *Blood Feast, The Gore Gore Girls,* and the cult favorite *2,000 Maniacs,* Lewis's 1960s films featured low production values, bad acting, and buckets of blood and guts. And the kids loved them. Although this site could benefit from the use of more visuals, Bob Bankard's witty analysis of the man and his work is a hoot to read. It's studded with quotes from the director's colleagues and from Lewis himself. Also included: a complete filmography and bibliography. **[phillyburbs.com/halloween2000/hgl]** FRANK GREEN

CARPENTER: ANTOINE LE GRAND/CORBIS OUTLINE

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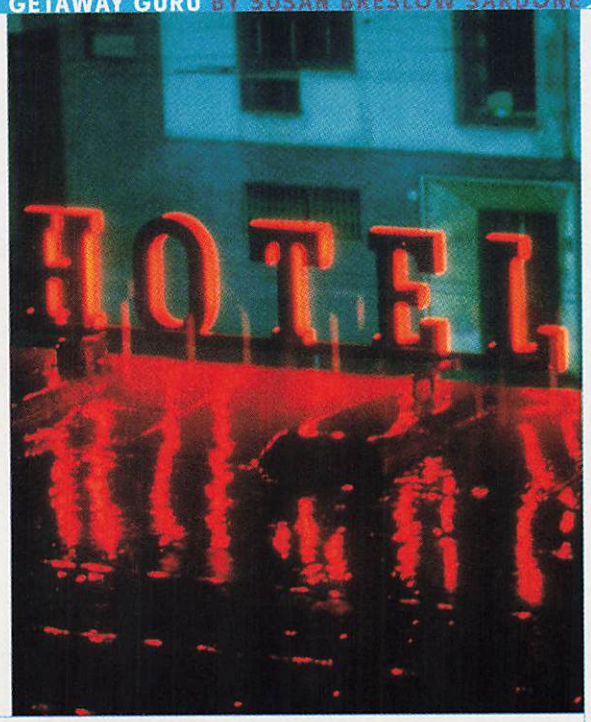
GETAWAY GURU BY SUSAN BRESLOW SARDONE




# HOTELS GEAR UP

Checking in? Check out the new tech perks

"Hello, room service? Please set me up a lap desk by the pool, and send the technology butler to reconfigure my PowerBook."

Ritz-Carlton guests can now summon tech support 24/7, and such requests may soon be routine. Jupiter Communications estimates that by next year half of U.S. hotel rooms will have Internet access. Meanwhile, all types of technological amenities are fast becoming the norm.

Guests arriving at New York City's Holiday Inn Wall Street can check in via a machine that spits out a room key. The Park Hyatt Chicago provides in-room safes that recharge laptops. Even grandes dames have gone digital: Manhattan's Plaza Hotel recently added custom PCs to rooms, and it also furnishes cell phones. Less than a mile away, the Waldorf-Astoria's new Executive Meeting Center features direct satellite links and Webcasting capabilities. Companies are also starting to use e-mail to enhance loyalty programs. Starwood Hotels & Resorts, for example, issues monthly eStatements that report a member's account balance and link to current deals online.

And here's a tip you won't get from the bellboy: **VirtualBellhop.com** picks up luggage from a home or an office and delivers it to hotels throughout the U.S.—a nice perk for travelers who resent toting anything heavier than a PDA.

## LODGING

### HOSTELS

**CHEAP DIGS**

**Hostelling International** Nearly a century ago, the International Youth Hostel Federation set out to help young travelers of limited means experience the world. Today, 4,200-plus hostels in more then 60 countries offer safe, simple comforts for about $12.50 per night. Families, couples, and singles of all ages can take advantage of the organization's computerized booking network and travel discounts. To help plan your vagabonding, explore the site's country-by-country links to facilities. **[www.iyhf.org]**

**COMMUNITY HUB**

**Hostels.com** The communal spirit of hosteling really comes through at this site, where travelers share tips on locales ("See Cuba this year before the crowds come"). Find ride companions on the message board. Regionalized listings range as far afield as the Fiji Islands. **[hostels.com]**

LORENA HAVENS, CARL FRANZ

## OUTDOORS

### BACKPACKING

**START HERE**

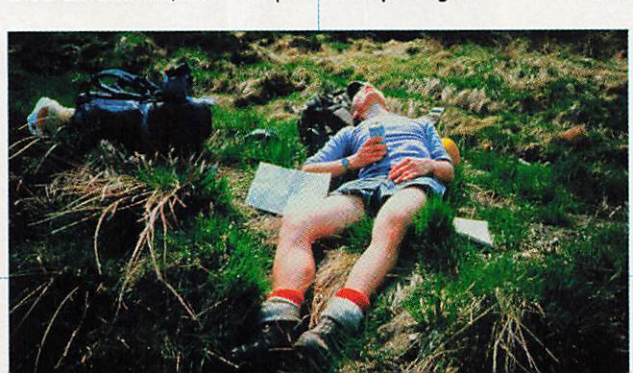
**Thebackpacker.com** Backpacking, which combines more skills than a Swiss army knife, is one of the world's most popular and accessible sports. With so many possible hikes, where do you begin? Search this database for U.S. and Canadian trails, which can be sorted by length, hike name, or packer rating. For inspiration, browse the excellent photo gallery, hiker journals, and articles. **[thebackpacker.com]**

**HIKER REVIEWS**

**Cool Trails** Packed with hiker-written reviews from the Pacific Northwest and British Columbia, this site lets you search by special interest, such as wildflowers, fire lookouts, or rivers. Before you tackle the 75-mile hike from Stevens Pass to Snoqualmie Pass, check the Effort Rating, based on distance and elevation gain. Reports often include photos and recommended reading. **[cooltrails.com]**

**PACKING TIPS**

**The Lightweight Backpacker** When in doubt, leave it out! Use the checklists here to reduce your load down to the bare essentials. Then visit the Gear Shop, where you can buy everything from dog packs to tent stakes. **[backpacking.net]** L.H., C.F.



HOTEL: KATHRYN MARX/NONSTOCK; HIKER: TOM STOCK/GETTYONE

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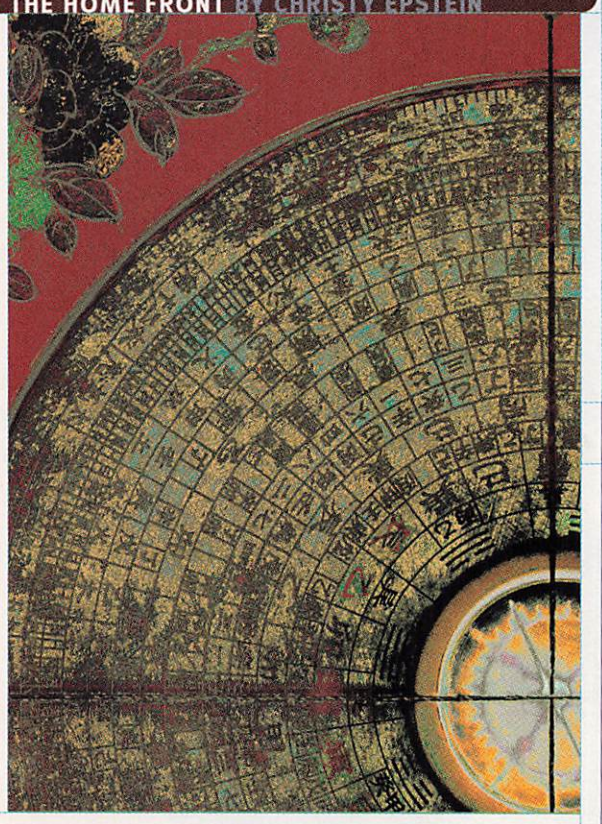
THE HOME FRONT BY CHRISTY EPSTEIN



# LOCAL POSITIONING SYSTEM

Seeking harmony? Set your sites on feng shui

Feng shui: You've probably heard the term (pronounced *fung shway*) in passing and have a vague idea that it's something flaky Hollywood types are into that involves rearranging the furniture. Simply put, this ancient Chinese tradition is the practice of living in harmony with your surroundings. To many it's known as the art of placement. But before you dismiss it as just another New Age fad, do a little research on the Web.

Dedicated to "helping feng shui shed its snake-oil-and-incense image," the **Ultimate Feng Shui Resource [qi-whiz.com]** posts consumer guidelines to ensure you're not taken in by a "wandering impostor" and steers you toward reliable books and practitioners. The **American Feng Shui Institute [amfengshui.com]** provides solid information about the discipline and offers online courses of study. Students work at their own pace and have 60 days to complete the program. While the $245 price tag may seem steep, it could be money well spent; the nationwide professionals we contacted using **The Feng Shui Directory of Consultants [fengshuidirectory.com]** quoted fees starting at several hundred dollars for a one-time consultation. If you need a quick fix, fast and free advice (on what to do with a rebellious teenager's room, for example) is available at **Geomancy.net**.

Once you feel confident in your understanding of this new way of life, have some fun and hit the **Feng Shui Megamall [fsmegamall.com]**. Buy a laughing Buddha fountain, an auspicious dragon, or a pair of foo dogs to ward off evil spirits. By this time, you should have just the right spot for them picked out in your home. And if you eventually abandon the practice, at least you'll have some intriguing relics by which to remember your feng shui period.

## HOBBIES

### HANDICRAFTS

**PROJECTS GALORE**

**HGTV: Crafts & Collectibles: Carol Duvall Index** Host of a popular Home & Garden Television show and the reigning monarch of homemade crafts, Duvall shares illustrated, step-by-step instructions here for hundreds of do-it-yourself activities. Conveniently linked to resources for purchasing materials, projects range from simple sock dolls to complex mosaics. **[hgtv.com/HGTV/project/0,1158,crho_project_22526,00.html]**

**HANDIWORK HELP**

**Crafter'sCommunity.com** Whether you're an avid crafter or a newbie looking for quick-and-easy holiday ideas, there are times when you need some advice. This site provides access to hundreds of enthusiasts eager to help. Participate in chat sessions, join forums focused on your favorite craft medium, swap patterns and supplies, hook up with a pen pal, or build your own home page—all for free. **[crafterscommunity.com]**

**RAINY DAY**

**Crafts for Kids** The next time the weather traps the kids indoors, don't let them sit around watching TV. Plop them in front of the computer screen instead. This colorful site features projects using materials found around the house, such as egg cartons, boxes, and string. Instructions are simple enough for many youngsters to follow on their own. **[enchantedlearning.com/crafts]**

**GLAMOUR GIRLS**

**Getcrafty** Think needlepoint samplers are best left to Grandma? Here, craftiness means making your own beauty masks, knitting your own bikini, or decorating your jalopy with hot-rod racing stripes. The Glitter message boards are lively forums for discussing everything from decoupage to décolleté. **[getcrafty.com]** FRANK GREEN

PIE-SLICE HANDICRAFT: ANN FAISON

FOOD & DRINK

## MIXOLOGY

### HOUSE OF SPIRITS

**Epicurious: Drinking** Anyone can slam down a shot in a glass. Home bartenders who want to impress can learn the art of making cocktails at Epicurious.

Discover the history of such spirits as gin and rum. Learn how to pick top-shelf brands. Then search a drink file of more than 1,000 recipes. The Cocktail Party Planner can help you throw a chic soiree, while the Buyer's Calculator can figure how much booze you'll need to shake up your guests. **[epicurious.com/d_drinking/d00_home/drinking.html]**

### KITCHEN ALCHEMY

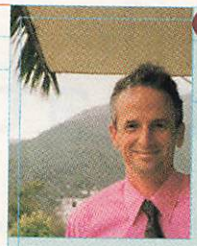
**iDrink** The Jägermeister, Kool-Aid, and maple syrup in the cupboard aren't just ant magnets. They're the makings for fun new drinks! Check off whatever ingredients you've got around the house and the site compiles a list of recipes for beverages you can concoct. **[www.idrink.com]**

### PRINCE OF RYES

**KingCocktail.com** Tony Bennett look-alike Dale DeGroff has been dubbed "the reigning champion of golden age cocktails" by Citysearch New York, whose readers picked him as Best Bartender last year. Peruse the Rainbow Room legend's site to drink in his wisdom. **[kingcocktail.com]** HEIDI LAFLECHE

MARTINIS: BURKE TRIOLO PRODUCTIONS/GETTYONE; CLAYTON: CHENG CHIWAI; DAY OF THE DEAD: AFP/CORBIS

EXPERT OPINION



## SMALL-TOWN GUIDE JOHN CLAYTON

Ten years ago, **John Clayton [johnclayton.tripod.com]** quit Boston to search for the perfect small town, eventually settling in Montana. He has since written a how-to guide, *Small Town Bound*, and recommends these links to other urbanites who are seeking to downsize:

**MONEY.COM: THE BEST PLACES TO LIVE** I hate those one-size-fits-all Top 10 Towns lists. At Money.com, you can customize your search to find what locations might work for you by using such criteria as weather and housing. **[money.com/money/depts/real_estate/bplive]**

**FIND A CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OR A CITY, STATE, PROVINCE** The chamber of commerce is a good, if sometimes biased, place to inform your decision on where to move. **[chamber-of-commerce.com/search.htm]**

**E&P MEDIA LINKS** At this *Editor & Publisher* site, you can learn about your potential destination by reading its local newspaper. **[emedia1.mediainfo.com/emedia/USimagemap.htm]**

**COMMUNITY STEWARDSHIP EXCHANGE** This site offers ideas on how to enhance the community you've chosen once you become a part of it. **[www.sonoran.org]** ALEXIS ADAMS

HOLIDAYS

## DAY OF THE DEAD

### LEARN THE HISTORY

**Mexico Connect: Day of the Dead** Based on preconquest beliefs, Mexico's Days of the Dead (November 1 for children, November 2 for adults) celebrate the lives of deceased family members, friends, and even pets. The dearly departed are invited to share a graveside feast with the living. Mexico Connect, which traces the history of the unusual fiesta, is festooned with striking images. **[mexconnect.com/mex_/feature/daydeadindex.html]**

### SET THE STAGE

**Latina Online: Day of the Dead Dulces; Dos Mujeres: Day of the Dead** Decorating elaborate home altars is a favorite tradition. Learn to make colorful *calaveras de azúcar* (sugar skulls) at Latina Online. Or add new meaning to the phrase "shop until you drop" at Dos Mujeres, where you can buy mini skeletons engaged in nearly any human activity—from typing on a computer to getting married. **[latina.com/new/magazine/books/98/oct/cocina.html]; [buymexicanfolkart.com/dayof.html]**

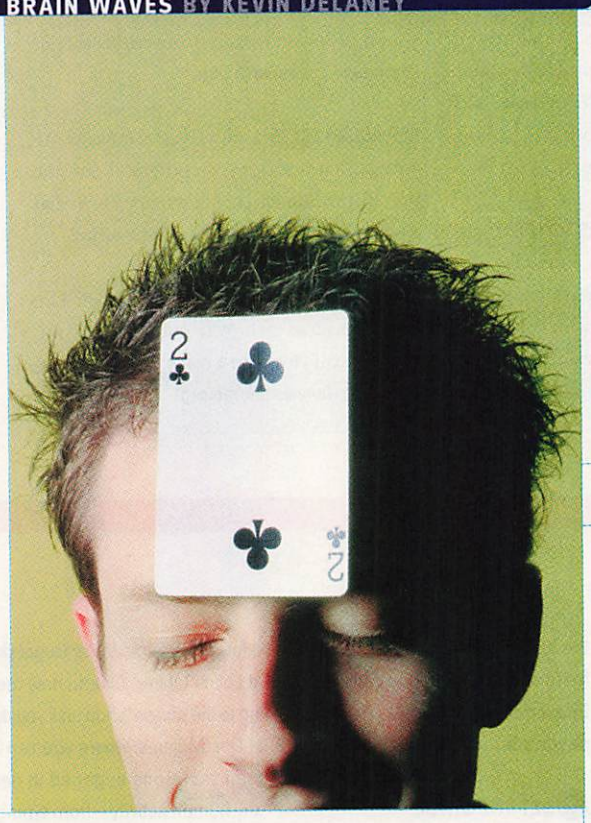
### MAKE CONNECTIONS

**AZCentral.com: Día de los Muertos** Visit this charming site to e-mail skeleton postcards to friends and get recipes for traditional foods such as *pan de muerto* (death bread), which is meant to be munched while you reflect upon the cycle of life and death. **[azcentral.com/rep/dead]**

### GO THERE

**The Day of the Dead in Oaxaca, Mexico** Learn here about Day of the Dead cemetery tours, workshops, and activities in and around Oaxaca, a major hub of the ancient festival. **[www.mexonline.com/muertos.htm]** LORENA HAVENS, CARL FRANZ

BRAIN WAVES BY KEVIN DELANEY



# MR. MAGIC'S NEIGHBORHOOD

Any old dog can learn some new tricks

Most of us have an Uncle Charlie—you know, the guy who roams the family gatherings, thrusting his deck of cards at hapless relatives and commanding them to pick one. His antics tend to arouse dueling emotions: annoyance at being subjected to the same tricks you watched as a kid—and awe because you *still* can't figure out how he does them.

Throughout the ages, the art of magic has been largely handed down from one performer to another, its secrets guarded like precious jewels. Little wonder, then, that Richard Robinson—aka Mr. Magic, the prestidigitator behind **Magic Show [allmagic.com]**—has been criticized for posting free tutorials that explain countless effects (Robinson responds that because they're virtually all original routines, he has every right to make them public). The information is so clearly presented, in text and video format, that even the klutzes among us can eventually master a few conjuring acts.

Ever seen the Incredible Multiplying Web Sites routine? We hadn't either, until we kept pulling more tricks out of Mr. Magic's bottomless hat. **Allmagic Finder [allmagicfinder.com]** is the ultimate search engine for locating exotic props to help put your act together. **Allmagic Reviews [allmagicreviews.com]** gives the scoop on new books and effects. **The Allmagic Reader [allmagicreader.com]** contains free e-books you can download to your PalmPilot. Then there's **Talk About Magic [talkaboutmagic.com]**, an archive of short radio segments about all aspects of the craft, and **The Magic Theater [magictheater.com]**, which has entertaining video clips.

The wealth of material available in Mr. Magic's neighborhood might not turn you into the next Houdini, but with diligent practice, you probably can hold your own against Uncle Charlie at the next family shindig.

## NEW YORK CITY MUSEUMS

### PRIVATE COLLECTIONS

**WORLD-CLASS ART**

**The Frick Collection and Frick Art Reference Library** Beyond such meccas of culture as the Guggenheim Museum (see Click! page 27), some outstanding private collections are open to the public in New York City, many housed in former mansions. The stunning Frick Collection building was once the home of steel baron Henry Clay Frick. Today it presents the pick of the baron's litter, from old master to Impressionist. Take a virtual tour of the galleries at the Web site, where museum director Samuel Sachs II provides audio commentary on a Rembrandt self-portrait and other star attractions. **[frick.org]**

**RARE MANUSCRIPTS**

**The Morgan Library** "If you take a poop, Morgan owns the pot!" folks liked to say in the late 1880s. Beyond America's chamber pots, financier J.P. Morgan also acquired a priceless collection of illuminated and historical manuscripts, as well as drawings and prints. Housed in his own cloistered sanctum, the library is one of the most stylish public accesses to grand private excess in Manhattan. Check the official site for news of upcoming exhibitions. **[morganlibrary.org]**

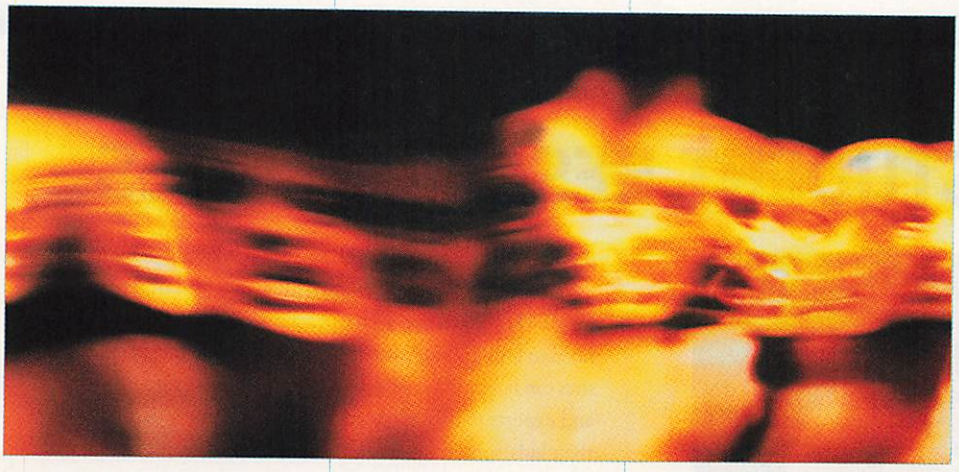
**ACADEMY MASTERS**

**Dahesh Museum of Art** This collection of 19th-century European academic painting was originally meant for the first such museum in Beirut, Lebanon, but now it resides in New York. Open to the public since 1995, it is unassumingly located on the second floor of a midtown Manhattan building. The site includes the visions of such masters as the French orientalist Jean-Léon Gérôme. **[daheshmuseum.org]** DONALD MILLER

MAGIC: STEPHEN STICKLER/GETTYONE; SUNFLOWER: © THE PIERPONT MORGAN LIBRARY 2001

POP PSYCHOLOGY

## DREAM ANALYSIS



### DECODING 101

**New Age Directory.com: Dream Analysis and Interpretation** Learning how to dissect your dreams into separate fragments is the key to understanding them. So says this surprisingly down-to-earth site, where you can find detailed guidance on how to decipher messages and images received during sleep that could contribute to your psychological and spiritual development. **[newagedirectory.com/dream/dreamanalysis.htm]**

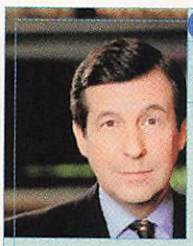
### VISION SHARING

**The Dream Tree** Help others understand their nighttime travels while discerning your own nocturnal quests. According to a participant in one of the Dream Sharing discussion groups, water symbolizes life, a snake foretells a hidden enemy, and walking up stairs means you will achieve your goal. **[dreamtree.com]**

### SOUND ADVICE

**Dreamdoctor** Author Charles McPhee, a former director at the Sleep Disorders Center in Santa Barbara, is host and counselor at this informative, no-nonsense site. McPhee's advice on how to remember your dreams sounds as if it might actually work, and the Dream Dictionary is filled with practical observations. Listen to the on-air advice McPhee gives others on his nightly radio show, or submit your own dream to the good doctor online. For $20, you can get a personal response within 48 hours. **[dreamdoctor.com]**

PAMELA DES BARRES



EXPERT OPINION

## JOURNALIST CHRIS WALLACE

Cyberprostitution. UFOs. Identity theft. Organized crime. Such are the topics uncovered by **Chris Wallace's Internet Exposé [abcnews.go.com/onair/correspondents/wallace/internetexpose]**, a streaming media program presented by the veteran broadcast journalist. "The Internet has a different form of storytelling than TV: It's two-way," says Wallace, who adds that the site's interactive features are what he hopes will keep visitors clicking back for more. Here's where Wallace and his crew dig up the dirt:

**FIRSTHEADLINES.COM** A good source of links to other publications. **[firstheadlines.com]**

**THE SMOKING GUN** A great resource for a variety of colorful crime stories. **[thesmokinggun.com]**

**CRIME.COM** Check state and county crime stats and track breaking stories nationwide. **[crime.com]**

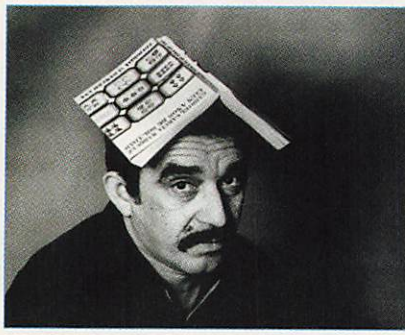
**THE CONSPIRACY NETWORK** Get information about conspiracy cases. You'll also find numerous links to sites that can trigger story ideas. **[theconspiracynetwork.com]** HEIDI LAFLECHE

LITERATURE

## MODERNISTS

### SURVEY COURSE

**The Modern Word** Through the languor of Argentine heat, Jorge Luis Borges distilled the modern literary epic down to the length of a short story. He also long maintained the public position of blind master librarian, thus inspiring the Modern Word to erect a Libyrinth in his honor. Celebrating the life and works of Gabriel García Márquez, Thomas Pynchon, James Joyce, Samuel Beckett, and Umberto Eco, as well as Borges, it houses exhaustive pages for each writer, along with historical photos. Those buyers of these masters' (often best-selling) works who become actual readers of the complex tomes will find like-minded literati here. Though brimming with in-jokes, the site also explains the texts generously, making it a priceless aid for curious but daunted students. **[themodernword.com]**



**MAGICAL REALIST** Gabriel García Márquez

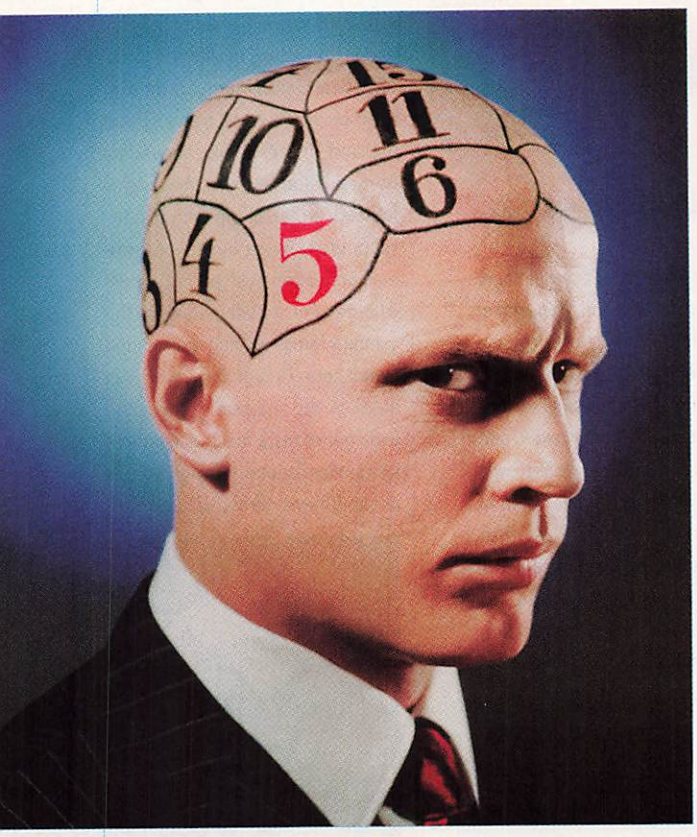
### SPECIAL FX

**The Illustrated Complete Summary of Thomas Pynchon's *Gravity's Rainbow*** Dr. Laurence Daw presents his illustrations to *Gravity's Rainbow*, Pynchon's boisterous novel about the gestalt of the 1940s, and especially the secret Nazi space program. Rife with imagery from Aleister Crowley's tarot deck and stills from Werner Herzog films, the pictures are connected by blow-by-blow accounts of the book's twisting plot, and they ain't your daddy's Cliff's Notes. **[themodernword.com/gr]** D.M.

BLURRED FACES: IAN JACKSON/GETTYONE; WALLACE: ABC INC. PHOTOGRAPHY; GARCÍA MÁRQUEZ: COLITA/CORBIS

WE TEST ONE CATEGORY IN DEPTH...ENVELOPES, PLEASE BY ALAN COHEN

# BEST STUDENT RESEARCH SITES



Remember finally working up the motivation to gather your index cards and trudge to the library to do that report on George Washington—only to find that someone had beaten you to that particular volume of *Encyclopaedia Britannica*? And how you spent the next three hours reading year-old issues of *Popular Science* while waiting for Einstein to work his way through the Battle of Trenton? Well, we do.

Students today have it easier, whether they're in grade school or going for a doctorate. All of the major encyclopedias, along with some new ones, are instantly accessible online—sometimes for a charge, often for free. These research hubs are a great jumping-off point, with links to related sites and, in some cases, nifty multimedia. Some of the best are run by names you already know: Britannica, World Book. But a new site, **Fathom [fathom.com]**, merits watching. It combines an online encyclopedia with fascinating articles and lectures from scholars at topflight institutions, such as Columbia University.

Internet business plans may come and go, but research remains a key use of the Web. Specialty sites can tell you what you need to know about math, physics, or English literature. Other sites can help you locate newspaper articles, government archives, and experts to consult. Parents can find homework helpers for their kids, sometimes in the form of a live online tutor. But with so many sites out there, which ones are worth your time come the next big report? Relax. We've done that research for you.

## AND THE WINNERS ARE . . .

### BEST RESEARCH HUB

**BRITANNICA.COM [britannica.com]**

Any Web-based encyclopedia can tell you when Harry Truman left office, but Britannica notes that his approval rating was a lot lower going out (31 percent) than coming in (87 percent). And when you do a search, you'll get not only the same articles found in the 32-volume print edition but also annotated links to relevant Web sites handpicked by the editors, making this a good place to start any research project. True, Britannica was a better deal when it was free (now a $5-per-month or $50-per-year subscription is needed for full access; on the upside, ads are history). But it is still more comprehensive—and more comprehensible—than its rivals, at least for the moment. While still a work in progress, Fathom has the potential, and the pedigree, to dominate the field.

### BEST MATH RESEARCH

**MATH.COM [math.com]**

We're not sure that wearing a Math.com T-shirt on the school bus is a good idea, but we are sure that this site's a lifesaver for those beleaguered by binomials. Whether you're tackling cosines, quadratic equations, or just plain multiplication, Math.com pitches in with practice problems, in-depth tutorials, and calculators galore. Ask the Expert lets you pose questions to whizzes around the Web, while the well-stocked library links to everything from an English-Spanish math dictionary to quotes from famous number crunchers. Use this riposte from Archimedes if a slacker tries to crib your answers during a test: "Soldier, stand away from my diagram."

### BEST LITERATURE RESEARCH

**BARTLEBY.COM [bartleby.com]**

If you're like us, you mastered literature the old-fashioned way: via Monarch Notes and the BBC. Bartleby may not be as slick as a six-part television adaptation of *Pride and Prejudice*, but it's a wonderful resource for anyone serious about books. Read full-text works by Shakespeare, Austen, and Twain (to name just a few), and search enormously helpful reference works like *The Cam-*

PHRENOLOGICAL HEAD: MOSHE BRAKHA; MAKEUP: RYUJI/BRADLEY CURRY; WARDROBE: GUS ROMERO/OLIVER PIRO

*bridge History of English and American Literature; The Oxford Shakespeare;* and *The Harvard Classics'* 20-volume *The Shelf of Fiction.*

## BEST SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY RESEARCH

### MARSHALL BRAIN'S HOWSTUFFWORKS

**[howstuffworks.com]**

How is a nuclear bomb detonated? Why does Alka-Seltzer fizz? What's the deal with DNA? Using diagrams, animations, illustrations, and (most important) clear writing, HowStuffWorks explains all manner of complicated devices, systems, and concepts without the Ph.D.-speak. There are hundreds of topics here that decipher the human body (heart, brain, lungs), as well as human achievements—both the bad (cigarettes) and the good (toilets).

## BEST HISTORY RESEARCH

### HISTORYCHANNEL.COM

**[historychannel.com]**

Antiquarians—and insomniacs—know that the History Channel is the go-to cable network for those 3 A.M. refresher courses on the Battle of Britain. What they may not know is that the stuff shown on TV is just the beginning. Slick and easy to navigate, the Web site offers an impressive collection of streaming audio speeches—including some not-so-obvious choices, such as Hank Aaron addressing Congress after smacking his 715th home run in 1974. True, the encyclopedia entries could use some updating (an entry on Al Gore still had him as vice president). But making up for that are the links to up-to-the-minute profiles found on **Biography.com** and a directory that points to enough Civil War sites to make Ken Burns surrender.

## BEST ART RESEARCH

### ARTCYCLOPEDIA

**[artcyclopedia.com]**

Granted, whoever designed Artcyclopedia is no Rembrandt; it's strictly substance over style here. But for researching the great masters, this site is required surfing. It lets you delve into the lives and works of more than 7,500 noted painters, sculptors, folk artists, and photographers. Enter an artist's name and you'll be linked to museum and gallery pages where you can view the work, along with all sorts of scholarly analysis and critical review.

## REPORT CARD » GRADING THE TOP RESEARCH HUBS

| THE BASICS | CONTENT | KEEPING CURRENT | MULTIMEDIA/LINKS | EXTRAS/CAVEATS | OVERALL |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| **BRITANNICA.COM** [britannica.com] | A+ Exhaustive articles explain complex topics. Full of little-known facts (such as the make of Amelia Earhart's first airplane). Even obscure subjects are covered well. | B- Entries on recent topics need refreshing (*Mir* is still in orbit, according to site). Can consult yearbooks for current information, but no coverage past 2000. | B+ Annotated links to related sites. Some sound and video clips, but spotty on photos (if you want to see Thomas Jefferson, find a nickel). | B+ To read more than the first paragraph, you have to pay: $5/month, $50/year. Excellent navigation: Most names, events, and places are cross-linked. | A- |
| **FATHOM** [fathom.com] | B+ Offers the full text of *The Columbia Encyclopedia* (see Infoplease). Provides some—but not enough—fascinating articles from prestigious institutions. | B- Since Fathom's original content is in short supply, most topics are covered only by the encyclopedia entries, which are current only through 1999. | B+ Good, if not frequent, use of sound and video (watch some lectures in streaming video). Links lead to related content on site, but no links to external material. | B The site is free, but you can pay to take online college-level classes. Member institutions are top-drawer but need to contribute more content. | B+ |
| **WORLD BOOK ONLINE** [www.worldbookonline.com] | B+ Thorough treatment of the big topics, though lesser-known events often get cursory coverage. Easy reading makes site ideal for younger scholars. | B+ Encyclopedia entries missed 2001 events, but World Book's atlas entries (country stats, politicians) are impressively up-to-date. | B Links to related sites, but generally just for bigger topics. Sporadic photos, maps; some audio and "bubble views" (e.g., Mount Rushmore in 360 degrees). | B- Service will cost you $10/month, $50/year. Excellent resources for younger students. Fun Back in Time entries (read a 1927 account of television). | B+ |
| **MSN: ENCARTA** [encarta.com] | B- Articles can be thorough for major topics (giving you the facts if not the analysis), but the dry writing style will lose you after a few paragraphs. | A Knew in July 2001 that Ariel Sharon was prime minister of Israel (February), *Mir* had burned up (March), and Timothy McVeigh was dead (June). | A- Most entries get a picture and at least one external Web link (both often quite good). Better use of multimedia than other sites, with ample audio and video. | B Must own Encarta Encyclopedia Deluxe 2001 software (typically $45) to get full access. Searches query not just Encarta but also MSN search. | B |
| **INFOPLEASE.COM** [infoplease.com] | B- Provides the full text of *The Columbia Encyclopedia*, but articles are uneven. Some major topics, surprisingly, are covered in cursory fashion. | B Encyclopedia entries end with the 20th century. But searches also direct you to the site's almanac entries, which are usually (but not always) up-to-date. | C- Nothing doing. No multimedia to speak of (aside from a rare picture in the almanac); no links to related sites. | B Everything is free here, though you will see some ads. The various components—encyclopedia, almanac, atlas—are not integrated in any way. | B- |

**HOW WE RATED THE SITES:** We searched for information on a wide range of subjects. Content was our primary concern, so we weighed that heavily: How thoroughly did the site cover the topic? How lucid and detailed were the explanations? We also looked for multimedia elements and links to external sites. Testing took place in June and July 2001; grades do not reflect any enhancements since then.

## BEST LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH

### THOMAS

**[thomas.loc.gov]**

You're writing a paper on campaign finance, and Sen. John McCain isn't returning your calls. Not to worry. Thomas—a public service run by the Library of Congress—is your gateway to everything you'd ever want to know (and then some) about federal bills, laws, and amendments. Thomas links you to House and Senate committees, federal agencies, and sites run by various state offices. If you're curious about how it all works, Thomas has that covered, too, with guides to the legislative process and the full texts of historical documents, such as the U.S. Constitution and *The Federalist Papers*.

## BEST EXPERT FINDER

### THE VIRTUAL REFERENCE DESK: ASKA+ LOCATOR

**[vrd.org/locator]**

If your question delves deep into a topic, often your best option is to ask a specialist. This site makes it easy to find, and quiz, these folks. Here you'll get links to dozens of expert pages where you can submit queries to archaeologists, astronomers, geologists—even hurricane hunters. AskA+ Locator tells you to whom your question will be going (for hurricane hunting, it's the U.S. Air Force Reserve's 53rd Weather Reconnaissance Squadron) and what your chances are of hearing back. So next time you've got a pressing query about the pilgrims, relax: There's a *Mayflower* authority out there with an e-mail account.

## BEST REFERENCE DIRECTORY

### REFDESK.COM

**[refdesk.com]**

Bob Drudge has given the world two things: his son, Matt Drudge; and Refdesk. We'll reserve comment on the former, but we'll happily go on record as calling Refdesk the Web's No. 1 directory to reference sites. Need a telephone number, a newspaper site, a medical dictionary, a guide to the semaphore flag-signaling alphabet? Refdesk can point you on your way. Chances are, you've already got a favorite search engine, but Refdesk lets you query 260 others, including ones covering specialty areas such as law and Usenet posts. Everything is well organized and updated regularly, often with helpful annotations from Drudge (Bob, that is). Colin Powell called Refdesk his favorite site. We call it indispensable.

## BEST PERIODICALS SEARCH

### NORTHERN LIGHT: SPECIAL COLLECTION

**[special.northernlight.com/docs/specoll_help_overview.html]**

Many publications archive stories online, but jumping from site to site is a drag. At Northern Light, you can search the files of over 7,100 journals, books, magazines, newspapers, pamphlets, and news wires. The articles will cost you (typically $1 to $4), but you get a brief summary that includes both source and length, so you can decide what's worth buying (once you do buy, the article appears on your screen). Many sources are top-notch, such as *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, and Reuters. One tip: Some for-pay articles, such as the *Fortune* magazine profile we found of Boeing, are available free of charge at the publication's own site. So take a quick look there before you purchase. ■

## A CLOSER LOOK: HOMEWORK HELPERS

Back in simpler times, a homework helper was the kid who, out of fear or greed, would tell you how *The Scarlet Letter* ended. With the Web comes a whole new definition. Today's homework helpers are sites that don't just give you the answers but help youngsters derive them on their own. You can find a terrific compilation of links (more than 700) at **DiscoverySchool.com: BJ Pinchbeck's Homework Helper [school.discovery.com/homeworkhelp/bjpinchbeck]**. Some favorites:

### ENCARTA TUTORS

**[www.tutor.com/encarta]**

Using chat windows and on-screen whiteboards, the live instructors here will guide their charges through practically any subject, for a fee that typically starts at $20 an hour. But kids can sample the service gratis. Every Sunday through Thursday, from 4 P.M. to midnight Eastern Time, the site offers free 15-minute, one-on-one help sessions. Just log on, select an age group and a subject, and you'll be matched with a tutor. Ours was ready to go immediately, and within a few minutes had helped us to differentiate between nuclear fission and fusion (fourth-graders, relax: You can ask about earthworms, too).

### HELPING YOUR CHILD LEARN TO READ

**[ed.gov/pubs/parents/Reading]**

From the U.S. Department of Education comes this handy online guide. The site won't win any style awards, but the tips will certainly help you get your youngster excited about reading. You'll discover a checklist of questions about your children's school, and learn how to create activities that let kids improve their reading skills (one idea: Prepare meals together, letting your child read the labels and recipes). The **Helping Your Child Series [ed.gov/pubs/parents/hyc.html]** also covers geography, history, math, and library skills.

### A+ MATH

**[aplusmath.com]**

Here's a site that brings back an old favorite: the math flash card. Kids can sharpen their skills in addition, subtraction, multiplication, division, square roots, and rounding by reading on-screen cards and typing in their solutions (the site displays correct answers if young Fermat gets stumped). Budding mathematicians can also print out work sheets filled with more complicated problems such as fractions and decimal multiplication. Answers can be printed out, too, so no one need lose any sleep.

### BEN'S GUIDE TO U.S. GOVERNMENT FOR KIDS

**[bensguide.gpo.gov]**

That's Ben as in Franklin. What's nice about this site is how it gears its content to specific age groups. Second-graders, for example, will learn that the Liberty Bell is in Philadelphia; high-schoolers will read about the 22 standing committees in the House of Representatives (while the young ones also discover that Pierre L'Enfant designed Washington, D.C., a fact bound to impress the gang at snack time). The companion guide for parents and teachers offers tips for using federal databases, and points to government publications and curriculum links.

H. BENSER/ZEFA/PHOTONICA

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| Windows Millennium Full oem Version | $78 |
| Office XP Small Bus. Full OEM Ver., CD/COA | $225 |
| Office XP Pro Full OEM Ver., CD/COA | $349 |
| Office XP Pro Upgrade, Retail Box | $249 |
| Office XP Pro Full Version, Retail Box | $409 |
| Office 2000 Pro Full OEM Version, CD/COA | $329 |
| Office 2000 Small Bus. Ed. CD/Man., Full Ver. OEM | $209 |
| Works Suite 2001 w/Word 2000 Full oem Version | $69 |
| Word 2000 Full oem Version | $49 |
| Works 2000 and Money 2000 Full oem Version | $29 |
| Project 2000 SR1 Full Version Retail Box | $419 |
| Visual Basic Pro+ 6.0 Full Ver. CD-Manual | $295 |
| Visual Studio Ent. 6.0 Plus Full Ver. CD-Man. | $459 |
| Windows 98.2 CD-Manual-Lic. Full DSP Ver. | $859 |
| Windows 95 OSR 2.1 w/CD-Manual-License OEM | $97 |
| Windows 3.11 Full OEM Version, 3.5" Disk | $35 |
| DOS 6.22 Full OEM Version, 3.5" Disk | $46 |

## MS NT & BACKOFFICE 2k & 4.5

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| NT Workstation 4.0 w/SP6a Full oem Version | $78 |
| NT Server 4.0 CD/Manual w/5 CAL License | $389 |
| Windows 2000 Server Full Retail w/5 CAL | $739 |
| Windows 2000 Server Full Retail w/10 CAL | $849 |
| Windows 2000 Adv. Server Full Retail w/25 CAL | $1429 |
| Exchange 2000 Full Retail Box w/5 CAL | $1045 |
| SQL Server 2000 Full Retail Box w/5 CAL | $1229 |
| BackOffice 2000 Small Bus. Server w/5 CAL oem | $1179 |
| BackOffice Server 2000 Full Retail w/5 CAL | $2099 |
| BackOffice Server 2000 Full Retail w/20 CAL | $5499 |
| BackOffice 4.5 Small Bus. Server w/5-CAL | $795 |
| BackOffice 4.5 Server w/25-CAL | $1299 |

## ADOBE

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| Acrobat 5.0 Full Retail Version | $224 |
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| Photoshop 6.0 Full Retail Version | $579 |
| Pagemaker 7.0 Plus Full Retail Version | $389 |
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| Wordperfect Office 2002 Pro Full oem Version | $59 |
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| CorelDraw 9.0 Graphic Suite CD-eManual | $99 |
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| Norton Anti-Virus 2001 w/CD-Electronic Manual | $18 |
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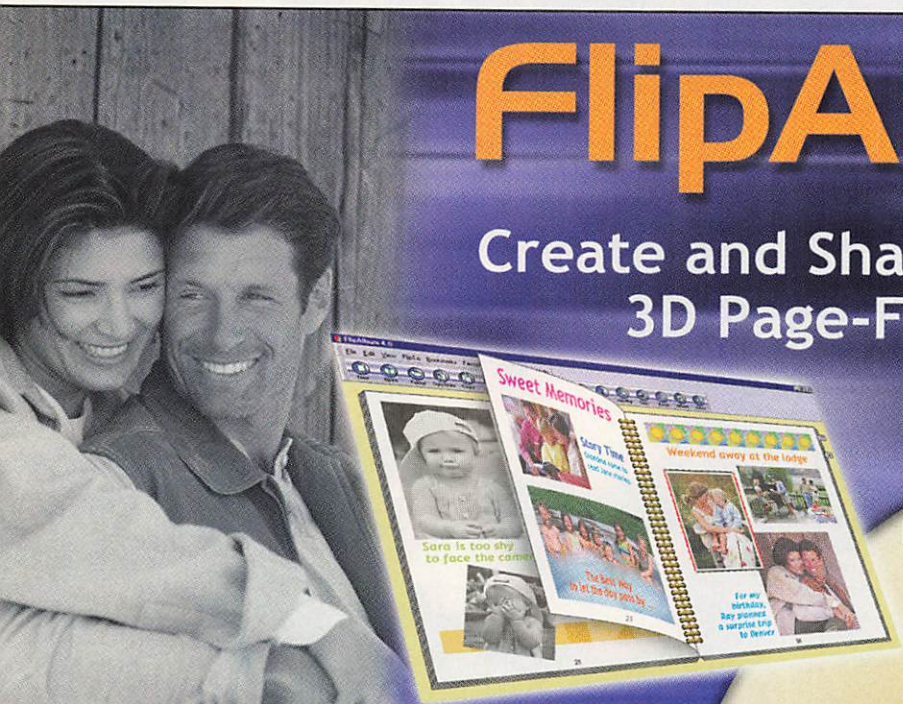


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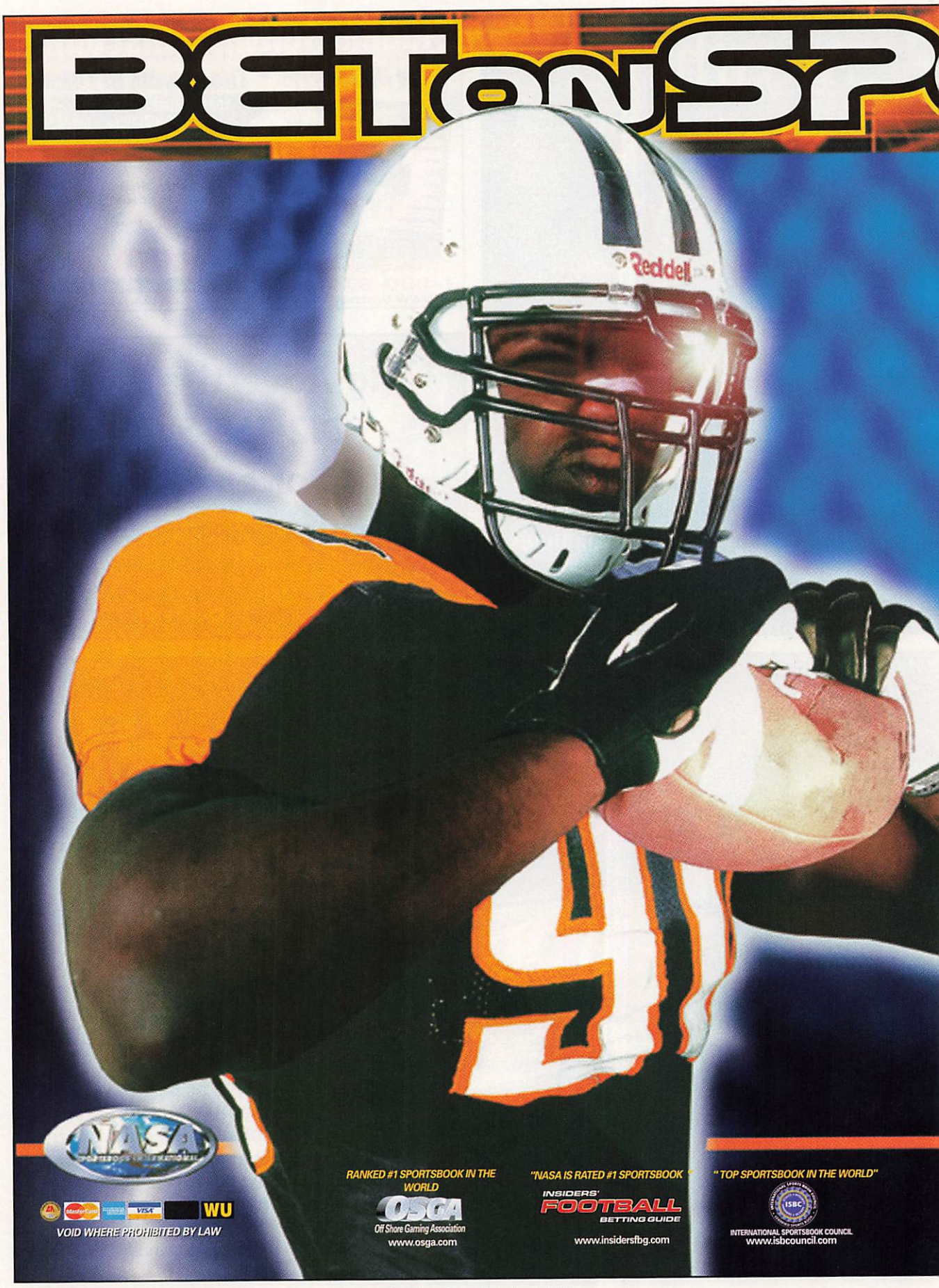
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## SMITE THEE

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## THE ROAD TO SPRINGFIELD

COMIC BOOK GUY OR MR. SKINNER? KENT BROCKMAN OR APU? YOU NEVER THOUGHT IT would come to this, but ruthlessness is the order of the day in Springfield. For this is the battle to be *The Simpsons'* most popular supporting character, and there is no second place (okay, there is a second place, but don't mess with me—I'm on a roll). At press time underdog Dr. Nick (Hi, everybody!) was making a surprisingly strong showing, upsetting such favorites as Mr. Smithers and Mrs. Krabappel. There are murmurs, however, that he's met his match in Troy McClure (whom you may remember from such educational videos as *Smoke Yourself Thin!* and *Lead Paint: Delicious but Deadly*). **[roadtospringfield.com]**

## SCHRÖDINGER'S CAT WEBCAM

ERWIN SCHRÖDINGER: QUANTUM PHYSICIST, visionary, cat hater. Schrödinger claimed that his classic thought experiment (which used a cat, a box, and some poison to illustrate that nothing really exists until it is observed) was never meant to be performed. But we can all read between the lines, can't we? Finally the geniuses over at Mad Science Laboratories have put Schrödinger's blueprint into action to find out once and for all if quantum physics really works. Here, kitty, kitty. **[madsciencelaboratories.com/laboratory/cat]**

## THE GALLERY OF "MISUSED" QUOTATION MARKS

EVERY SO OFTEN WE FIND A SITE THAT PERFORMS A PUBLIC SERVICE SO "VALUABLE," SO "life-enriching," it makes us "happy to be alive." This is not one of those sites. But don't let that stop you from "reading" about swimsuits that are clean and "sanitized," Jenny the "adorable" child, "pork" burritos, the El Capitan Theatre's "mighty" Wurlitzer pipe organ, an office that specializes in "prostate screenings," and a grocery store's "friendly" associates. And hey, you're in luck—the "milk" is only $1.99! **[juvalamu.com/qmarks]**

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BUT SOFT! WHAT CLEAVAGE THROUGH YONDER STRING-TOP BREAKS? HEARING Shakespeare recited aloud by a talented actor is one of life's great joys. As it turns out, hearing Shakespeare completely mangled by bodacious babes in bikinis is one of life's even greater joys. Check out the iambic pentameter on these hotties as they strut and fret their hour upon the stage. To be, or not to be. That is, like, the question. **[www.thresholdbabes.com/masterpiece]**

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#### CAN'T STOP THE MUSIC
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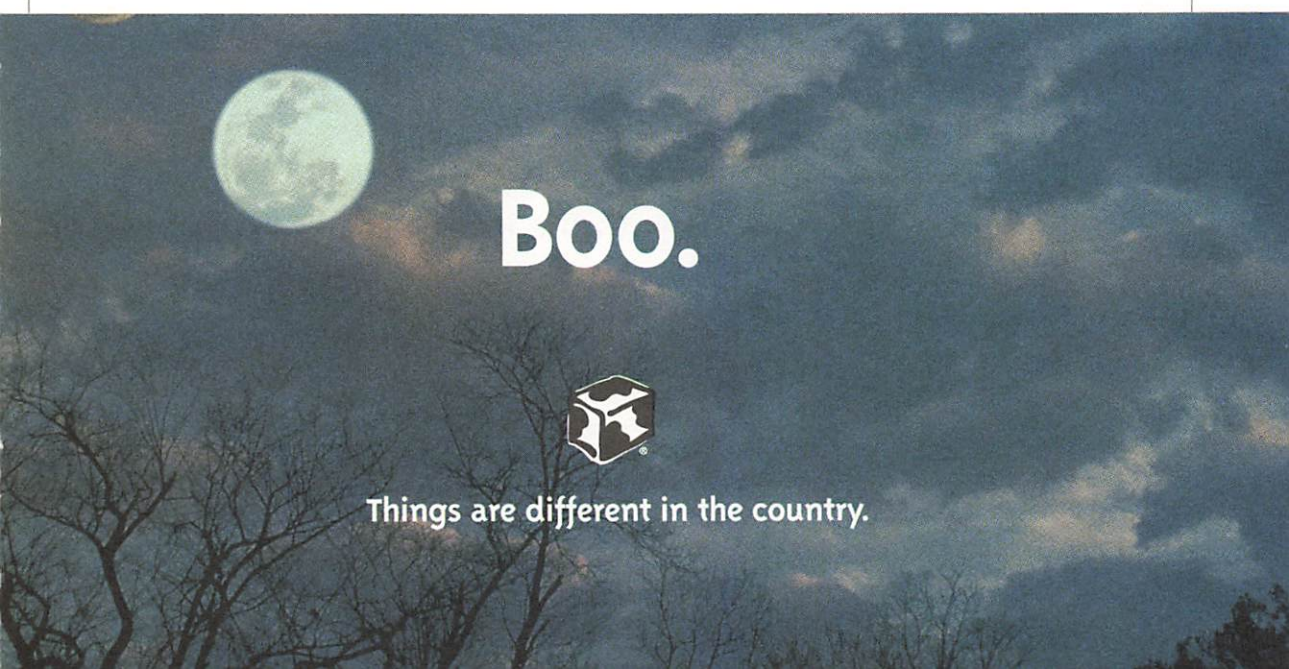

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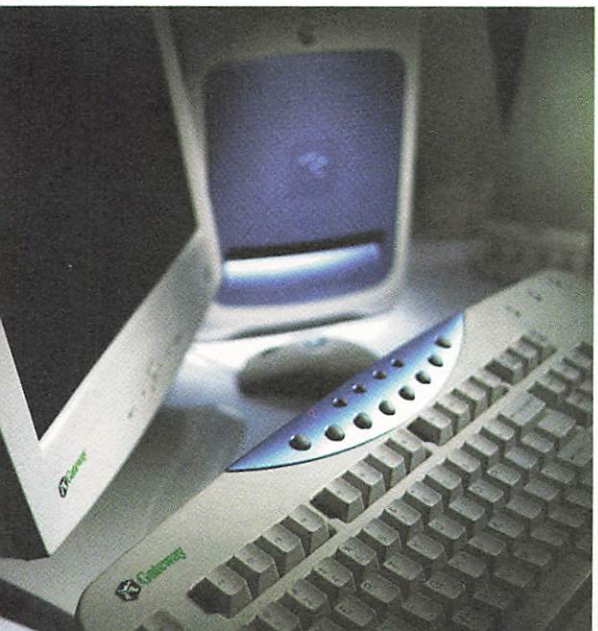

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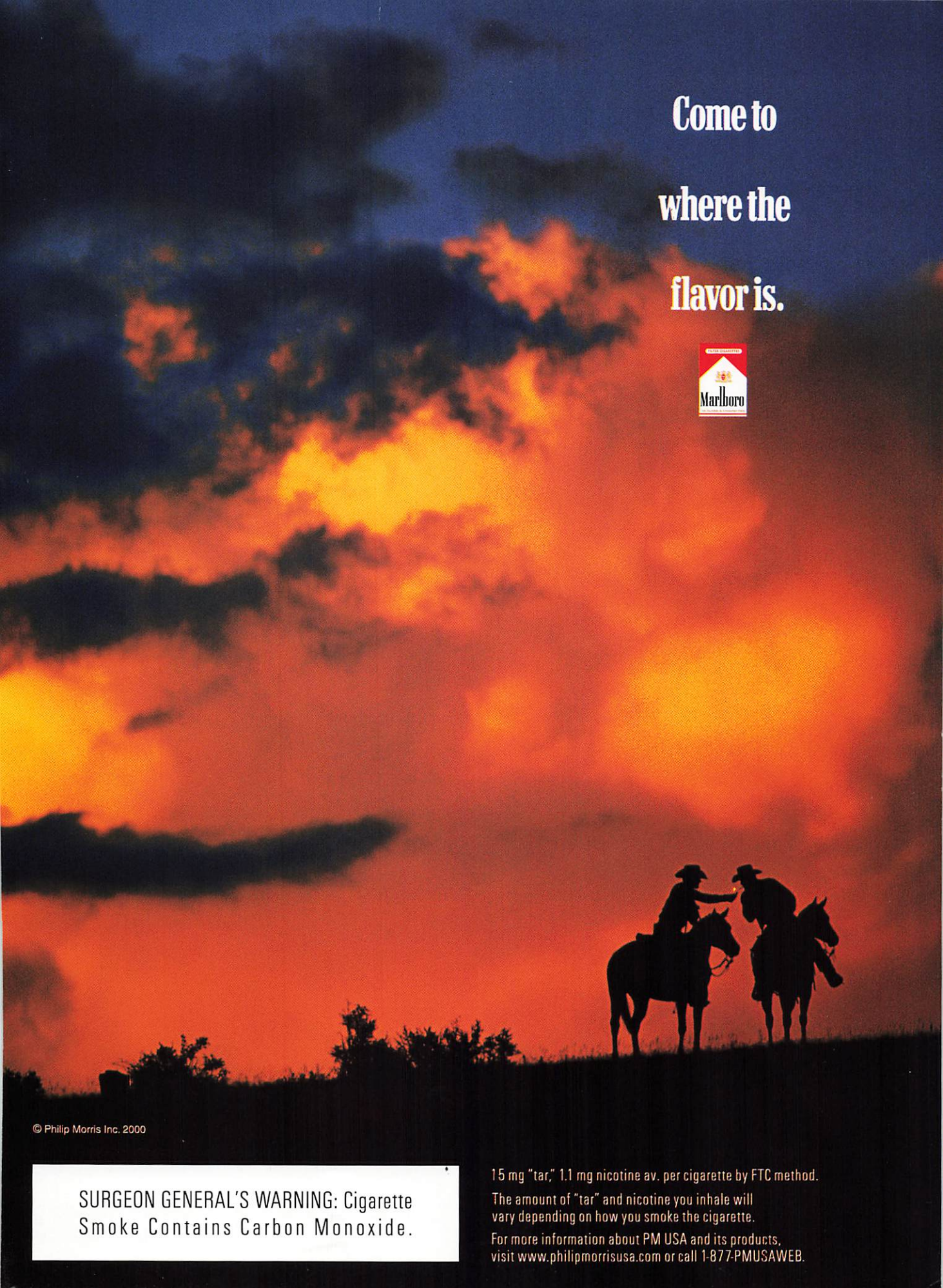
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